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Pupils' delight

School celebrates its best-ever GCSE results



Sweet birthday

Jamie's double is good enough to eat for a treat



Boxing success

Whittaker's world wide open as he eases through



3,000 jobs hope with £26m new roads plan

A MULTI-MILLION pound

A MULTI-MILLION pound road network will help to create 3,000 new jobs, a council chief has said.

Work on a new Bentley Road South bridge has started as part of the £26 million scheme in Darlaston and Pleck.

Regeneration chief, Councillor Adrian Andrew, said the project will transform the area. He said: "It's one of our main drives to help business and create new jobs. We have parcels of land that poor roads are stopping from being redeveloped.

"Better roads around the Black Country Enterprise Zone, which includes Darlaston, will mean we can unlock 40 hectares of land, create more than 3,000 jobs

laston, will mean we can unlock 40 hectares of land, create more than 3,000 jobs in the next few years."

As part of the Walsall Council-funded work, two 68-tonne beams have been lifted into place with 11 weighing between 28 and 38 tonnes also lifted during the six-hour operation.

More than 4,000 cubic tonnes of rubble are being removed as part of the bridge-building operation. Four major junctions and two bridges are set to be upgraded in Darlaston and Pleck under the scheme. There will be work in Bentley Road South, including the junction with Heath Road, and Bentley Mill Way, including the junction with Darlaston Road. Work is due to be completed in 2015.

College's joy at gold award

WALSALL College has been praised for its 'clear drive' to improve the employability skills of students after being re-accredited with a gold careers award.

The college was presented with the Prospects CEIAG Gold Award – one of only six precialist careers awards

specialist careers awards – for meeting the national standard in careers educa-tion, information, advice and guidance

and guidance.

An accreditation board confirmed the re-accreditation at a recent meeting and said it recognised 'consistent and embedded' outstanding provision.

LGLISH BACKS N'S RETU



Drugs alert

after thieves

raid chemist POLICE have warned parents to be on their guard after prescription drugs were found discarded near to a pharmacy which was

discarded near to a pharmacy which was targeted by thieves.

Burglars raided the Co-operative Pharmacy in Leckie Road, Walsall, at around 1.39pm on Sunday and among the drugs taken were morphine, methadone and amphetamines.

A full stock take of what was taken was carried out on Monday, with cash from a safe also believed to have been taken, but the total was not yet known.

West Midlands Police spokesman Brigg Ford said: There was certainly a break-in.

AS MOMENTUM continues to gather for Darlaston Town FC to remain in the league, one footballing legend has shown a keen interest in the club's fortunes - Kenny Dalglish.

The Liverpool ex-boss and star player – who led the Reds through one of the most successful periods in the club's history, winning league titles, FA Cups and Euro-

pean Cups – is backing a drive to keep Darlaston alive.

The club was forced to pull out of the Midlands League last season after 140 years when it folded due to financial issues.

But now a £5,000 fundraising target has

But now a £5,000 fundraising target has now been reached, bringing it back from the brink. Campaigners are now trying to raise thousands to keep the club going for future years and help it secure a permanent base.

And Dalglish is expected to donate a signed shirt to be auctioned at an event featuring Wolves legends Don Goodman and Steve Daley on April 4 to support the campaign.

He was contacted by Walsall South MP Valerie Vaz, who said he has since shown an interest in the club's history and fight for survival. Mrs Vaz has also written to FA chairman Greg Dyke asking him to support the campaign.

She wants to hold a meeting with him to see what support is available for the club.

Interest

But she says that getting the support of a legend like Dalglish could bring the cam-paign to a wider audience. She said: "He has been very good and has shown an interest in the club – after we mentioned it to him he had been online looking up the club's history."

West Midlands Police spokesman Brigg Ford said: There was certainly a break-in. "It looks like there was a mix of prescription and over-the-counter things stolen." He added the force had been wary of the drugs falling into the hands of children. A warning was put out by police through Twitter in a bid to stop the items falling into the hands of youngsters. Lindsay Colbeck, spokesperson for The Co-operative, said: "A quantity of prescription and over the counter medication was stolen from our pharmacy on Leckie Road in Walsall on Sunday. The police have been notified. Safety is our highest priority and if anyone finds the discarded medicines, we would urge them to take them to their local had been omine looking up the ctub shistory."

She is also trying to organise a 'parliamentary football match' involving MPs and Westminster officials, and hopes shadow health secretary Andy Burnham will be one of the first to sign up.

The football club, founded in 1874, is believed to be the second oldest non-league team in the country. It was a founder member of the Midlands league in 1962 but resigned at the end of last season.

A committee was set up in September to generate £5,000 to cover costs rent, registration fees and kits in a bid to save the club. Bosses are looking to raise another £5,000.

But its City Ground base needs new fences and walls, so talks are being held with Walsall Council to decide whether the club will stay there or move to a new location.

walsan country of the whether the clab will stay there or move to a new location. League officials will assess whether grounds are suitable between April and June.

anyone finds the discarded medicines, we would urge them to take them to their local police station or pharmacy."

Blakenall councillor Pete Smith said: "It is extremely worrying to hear about this kind of break-in," he said. "If prescription drugs have been taken it does make you wonder where they are going to go and whose hands they are going to end up in."

Having fun? Yes they can-can



Tracey Holt, Georgie Palmer and Angie Hart with instructor Maggie Palmer at the front FRILLY skirts and high kicks at the ready but it's physically demanding so is a great

FRILLY skirts and high kicks at the ready girls – the can-can is coming.

Classes for the flirty, fast and physical dance are to be held across the Black Country and Staffordshire.

Run by Willenhall dance teacher Maggie Palmer, the two-hour workshops will bring the thrill of 1920s Paris to the 21st century. The 48-year-old Triple M Dance Academy principal said: "The French can-can is iconic

way to have fun, get fit and tone up."

The dance teacher, who has 32 years experience, has devised the special course to be held in Wolverhampton, West Bromwich and Cannock.

To book a place at a workshop or for more detailscontact Miss Palmer on 07881 538780 or go to www.triplemdanceacad emy.co.uk

Expanding firms get their slice of funding

MORE than 120 jobs are poised to be created after businesses secured a slice of £1 million to aid expansion plans. Eight firms in Walsall have been granted the cash from the Government which will help safeguard and create positions.

Companies including TeePee Electrical and Inex Holdings, both from Willenhall, and Task Consumer Products and Credential Environmental Ltd in Dalaston have benefited.

It is part of funding from the Green Bridge Supply chain programme which offers support of between £20,000 to £1m. It supports businesses that operate in areas such as renewable energy, low carbon, building technologies, manufacturing, transport and logistics. It is anticipated the grants will help attract almost £5.5m of private investment and create more than 120 jobs, while safeguarding a further 33 positions.

TeePee Electrical, in Willenhall Lane, manufactures wiring harnesses, looms and panel assemblies and is looking to expand and move to new premises.

Manufacturing Alanto, of Regal Drive, Walsall, convert cellular rubber, foam and plastic for the construction, automotive industries, including train and solar PV panels. The business will use its allocation to install mezzanine floors and to have two meabines at the construction to the subject t

to buy two machines to accommodate its growth.

Chief backs cash boost

EXTRA money to help Walsall Manor cope with rising demand from patients in Staffordshire has been welcomed by the trust chief executive. The hospital is in line to receive a slice of £130 million of funding after the downgrading of Stafford Hospital was approved. Richard Kirby, chief executive at Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust, said: "The potential £14m investment will see improvements in maternity, additional ward space and we will be looking to enhance our A&E and critical care facilities."

cal care facilities.

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thechronicle

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Extra journeys with buses shake-up A SHAKE-UP of bus services has resulted in extra journeys and routes revised across the Black Country. A series of timetable changes have now come in across Willenhall, wolverhampton and part of Sandwell. It comes after a review by Centro and operators was carried out with the aim of increasing reliability and providing better connections for bus passengers. There is a new-look 41 Extra journeys and service between Willenhall and will now stop on the Allens (Walsall on evenings and Sundays which will now stop on the Allens (Walsall on evenings and Sundays which will now stop on the Allens (Wood End to Cannock Road temple. A trial of a better service through Portobello which provided links to Walsall, Wolverhampton and Willenhall, as part of the number 40 bus, is also being introduced. Willenhall councillor Ian Shires welcomed the improvements which will make it easier for commuters and Poviding better connections for bus passengers. There is a new-look 41

courses after a year of study - leaving some

Grace Academy in Darlaston confirmed it had dropped several subjects, but insisted it was to give

But pupils have hit out at the surprise move, saying it could affect their chances at

the surprise move, saying it could affect their chances at getting into college and further education.

The subjects which have been dropped are believed to include resistant materials, computing, engineering and a business qualification.

One student, who didn't want to be named, claimed the move had affected dozens of students.

They said: "I have already done a year's worth of work in each of these subjects and now I am not going to get to finish them. I am worried that if I do not get all five GCSEs at A* to C then I won't get in to college. There are some students who will leave school with eight

leave school with eight GCSEs, an employer will def-

The move comes just months after the school unveiled a £26 million rebuild which saw new music

initely pick them over me

pupils a better chance at gaining qualifications.

pupils working for just five exams.

Star Matt's

missing his

pudding fix

EX-CORRIE actor Matthew Marsden, who grew up in Walsall, has told how he misses rice pudding and decent Indian food, now he is based in Hollywood.

The 40-year-old rose to fame on Coronation Street and Emmerdale before emigrating to America and is working on a new sci-fi movie called Bounty Killer.

He said: "I went out the other day and I got some Ambrosia Cream Rice and gave it to my kids and said, "This is what Daddy ate back home! And a decent Indian meal; you don't really good Indian food here."

The actor was brought up on the Yew Tree Estate. Of the new film he said: "Wed a loose read-through with me doing an American acc-ent, then I reverted back to the British accent and the direct resaid." Dirifer is no longer

British accent and the director said, 'Drifter is no longer American, he's Brit-ish. We want that. We love it'."

Walsall's Matthew Marsden

Blow for students as school scraps courses

Missing - Lucy Jane Green

Appeal by police over

woman, 32

AN APPEAL has been launched by police to find a 'vulnerable' woman who has been missing from her home for almost three weeks.

home for almost three weeks. Lucy Jane Green, from Burntwood, was last seen on January 10 at 9.50am. The 32-year-old of Park Road is white, 5ft 4in tall with short, dark brown hair and she sometimes wears brown-framed glasses. She was wearing a navy waxed-type jacket when she left home.

left home. Staffordshire

Police spokeswoman Hazel Dockery said: "We consider Lucy to be vulnerable and we are concerned for her welfare

welfare.
"Extensive searches are under way to locate her and we would ask that anyone who has seen her, or had any contact, to get in touch."

Anyone with information is asked to contact Staffordshire Police on 101.



A dramatic lightning strike over Blakenall, Walsall, caught by reader David Mottram

Town is battered by storms

FREAK weather battered Walsall as bolts of unveiled a £26 million rebuild which saw new music and recording studios installed alongside specialist drama studios and a full-size competition basketball sports hall.

Walsall Council leader Mike Bird said the authority had no control over the Grace Academy but added he thought a lack of interest in courses may have been behind the changes.

He added: "The schools assess the needs of teaching by the take-up for courses planned in the curriculum. I should imagine the take-up might have been minimal with the resources available to teach those subjects."

Judi Wood, director of corporate development at the school had made some changes to its timetable.

FREAK weather battered Walsall as bolts of lightning were sent streaming across dark and gloomy skies and giant hailstones came down causing chaos at the weekend.

This amazing picture, above, was captured by Walsall resident David Mottram, from his garden in Blakenall.

The storm left chaos and destruction in its wake and the extreme weather looks likely to continue – with snow on the way.

The worst of the weather saw three homes and a church set on fire after being struck by lightning. In Stourbridge two homes were directly hit, leading to a fire in the roof. People living in Oakfield Road in Wollescote said the ground was shaking and cars vibrated after the lightning strike on Saturday afternoon.

vibrated after the lightning strike on Saturday afternoon.

Mother-of-two Natasha Attwood, aged 23, lives next door to a house damaged by fire. She was at a family member's nearby - but heard the bang and returned to find the destruction.

She said: "I feel really sorry for those people impacted, it was horrible. I've heard loads of other people were left without electricity and phones because of this."

Other homes were also struck across the region, as was St Michael and the Holy

Walsall hailstones held by Robin Hartley

Angels church in High Street, West Bromwich. A Christmas decoration conducted electricity from the lightning,

Residents and businesses were also left without power as a result of the weather

problems.

The storm also caused Wolves players to flee the field before their match against Bristol City at Molineux. Meanwhile, forecasters have warned people to brace themselves for cold weather with wintry showers, predicted for today, Thursday.

Wards back as outbreak ban is lifted

THE majority of wards have reopened to visitors at Walsall Manor Hospital just over a week after they were shut due to the winter vomiting bug norovirus.

The site was closed to visitors for eight days in a bid to contain the spread of the highly contagious illness, but the ban was lifted on Monday afternoon.

Warning posters put up around the hospital have been taken down but handwashing stations still remain at all entrances.

Three out of the 25 wards are still affected by norovirus, with four confirmed cases remaining. As a result, restrictions are in still in place on wards three, 14 and the Swift Discharge Unit.

Visitors are being asked to call ahead as restrictions are being reviewed daily.

being reviewed daily.

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£40m plea for M-way green light on iunction

THE GOVERNMENT is to be lobbied for cash to enable

be lobbied for cash to enable the £40 million revamp of a busy motorway junction at Walsall to go-ahead. Plans have been drawn up for junction 10 which would include new bridges over the M6, which will see the road double in width to four lanes.

There will also be improvements at Bloxwich

improvements at Bloxwich Lane and modifications to the Black Country Route. Walsall Council has allocated £650,000 towards developing a business case with the Highways Agency set to provide £10m towards the ambiting account. the ambitious project. Now alongside the Local Enterprise Partnership the council will ask the Government for cash to be allocated insisting it is a "national prioritie".

Around 160,000 motorists a day use the busy stretch and the aim is to secure funding separate from the overall West Midlands allocation. Regeneration chief, councillor Adrian Andrew, said: "What we are trying to do is lobby the government to make this a national pri-

Appeal over sex assault on car park

A WOMAN was sexually assaulted as she walked along a street in the early hours. The attack happened as the victim, in her 40s, walked from Maple Road towards the Tiger pub on the corner of Bell Lane, Walsall.

Detectives are investing the assault in Yew Tree

the assault in Yow Tree which happened at just after lam on January 11.

A man approached her as she reached the car park of the pub and pushed her to the ground. She managed to get up and started to run but the man caught up with her and then sexually assaulted her before getting away.

He is black, around 5ft 6ins tall, with short hair and wearing a peaked hat.

wearing a peaked hat. Anyone with information can call 101 or Crimestop-pers on 0800 555 111.

Boxing night

BOXERS will be packing a punch during a night of sport on March 1 at Walsall Town Hall. Tickets are £30 or £60 for a ringside seat and are available from Walsall Town Hall box office on 0845 111 2900.

Miracle for Margot as 30,000 help cause



Margot and mum Vicki

MORE than 30,000 people have come forward to help save the life of a little girl battling a rare form of leukaemia.

Margot Martini, has inspired thousands of people to take a swab test to find her perfect stem cell donor.

Celebrities including Steve Bull, Martin Clunes and Gary Barlow are backing the campaign and a mass swabbing event will take place in Wolverhampton next month.

Margot's mother Vicki, who hails from Essington, urged Black Country people to get behind them, saying: "This means everything to us."

Margot's family has launched an online appeal to raise awareness of their little girl's plight. An online video has been seen by more than 60,000 people, while a Facebook group has almost 10,000 followers. More than 30,000 people have now come forward to be tested.

Vicki, 38, launched an emotional plea for people to register as donors in the hope of finding a match for 17-month-old Margot. "This has torn our world apart," she said, adding: "I went to see doctors with Margot at 2pm because I knew something was-

2pm because I knew something was-

leukaemia."

Margot was 14 months old when she was diagnosed with a rare form of blood cancer. Doctors at Great Ormond Street Hospital have seen it three times in the past decade.

Medics say her best hope is a bone marrow transplant and the hunt is now on to find a perfect stem cell match. A Swab for Margot day is being held at the Mount Hotel in Tettenhall Wood on February 23.

Mrs Martini. who lives in London

Mrs Martini, who lives in London

Oscar, six, and Rufus, five, said "Margot is beautiful. She is always smiling and gregarious." But the

"Margot is beautiful. She is always smiling and gregarious." But the former Cheslyn Hay High School pupil added: "This isn't just for Margot. People never know when they might find themselves needing a donor."

The swab day has been organised by Margot's aunt Charlotte Hathaway, of Tettenhall, who said: "We are searching all over the world to find the perfect match." See www.deletebloodcancer.org.uk find the perfect match." See www.deletebloodcancer.org.uk

Practice's joy at pet food sent in

A VETS practice in Great Wyrley collected hun-dreds of cans and sachets of pet food in response to a campaign to support charities helping home-

less companion pets.

The 387 Veterinary
Centre collected more
than 100 tins of dog food, more than 150 sachets of cat food and 11.5 stone of dried food and treats.

dried food and treats.

Owner Hamish
Duncan said: "We were
stunned by the volume of
pet food put into our
Christmas collection bin.
We certainly never
expected to fill four of the
nine kennels in our cat
ward with so much
Christmas cheer."

Fake phone gear found by officers

FOLING by officers
POLICE found fake
iPhone accessories and
phone covers as part of
raids on three shops.
Officers in Sandwell
executed three warrants
on mobile phone shops
suspected of handling
stolen property as part of
a force-wide day of action
to stop the sale of stolen
goods. Officers were
accompanied by officials accompanied by officials from the border agencies, fire service and trading

the service and trading standards.
Police will be talking further to all three shop owners about handling stolen goods, but no arrests have been made.

Vote for gallery to win artist visit

THE New Art Gallery in Walsall has been shortlisted in a competition to win a visit from contemporary artist Janette Parris.
People can vote for the venue to win Culture 24's Connect10 Museums at Night competition.

Connect10 Museums at Night competition.

If the gallery wins, the artist will visit the venue in Gallery Square in May. To vote, visit www.cul ture24.org.uk/placesto-go/museums-at-night/art462290-Comect10-Vote-Janette-Parris

Restrictions to see route delays

DRIVERS are facing a month of delays along a route in Willenhall.

Restrictions will be in place along Coppice Farm Way until the middle of February February.

Temporary traffic signals will be in opera-tion during the four-week scheme. This is to allow for electricity main ren-ewal works to be carried out by Western Power.

Police probe goes on after collision death of pensioner

week into the death of a pensioner who was hit by a car as he went to get his morning

The 86-year-old died after the smash on Walsall Wood High Street. Police said the driver of the silver Ford Mondeo, which crashed into a wall after hitting the pensioner and came to rest outside the Boatman Rest pub, was being voluntarily interviewed by officers, and at the time of going to press, no further

action had been taken.
Police and paramedics were called to the scene early last Friday and the road was shut for several hours between Salter's Road and Coppice Road for investigations. investigations

The victim was believed to have lived close to where the crash took place and neighbours said they were in 'complete shock'

The trip to the shops had been the pensioner's daily routine for the last 11 years. He was rushed to hospital following the incident, with life-threatening injuries where he later died.

Paper

Police and paramedics were called to the accident at around 5.50am and the road was shut for several hours between Salters Road and Coppice Road for inves-tigations to be carried out.

The car smashed into a wall after hitting the pensioner and stopped outside the pub.

Rash Patel, aged 59,who runs Costcutter in the High Street, said he served the elderly man his morning paper minutes before he was hit by the car, as he has done for the last 11 years. "He lives across the road and he would come over every day," said Mr Patel. "He's been coming here for around 11 years. He is a very strong-willed man and

very strong-willed man and very pleasant."

close to where the crash took place, would cross the road to collect his morning

road to collect his morning paper every day.

The shopkeeper, who described hearing 'a bang and a screeching noise' while in his shop, called the police and ambulance crews after the smash.

The man's neighbour Jenny Lawley said: "He's a nice guy and is well-known in the area.

"He used to be well-

in the area.
"He used to be well-known for using a mobility scooter, but has recently had an operation and is walking regularly. Every-body in the area is in complete shock."

Another nearby resident

plete shock."

Another nearby resident,
Mrs Janis Rogers, said the
whole neighbourhood had
been 'shocked and saddened' by the accident.

"He is a pleasant man. I
speak to him whenever we
cross paths," said 59-yearold Mrs Rogers, who has
lived in the area for 21
years.

"Nobody can believe what

"Nobody can believe what has happened. It has caused a lot of shock and upset." A spokesman from West Midlands Police said: "Offi-cers were called at 5.48am following reports that a car had callided with an elderly. had collided with an elderly man in High Street, Walsall Wood."



The scene of the crash in High Street, Walsall Wood, that left a pensioner seriously injured and fighting for his life

Fewer to face redundancy axe

FEWER workers will be made redundant at Walsall Council than originally predicted, it has been revealed, as bosses announce they will instead look to make savings elsewhere.

The council, which needs to cut £19

The council, which needs to cut £19 million from its budget, was originally looking at 332 job losses – but the number is now being cut. The figure of 332 was reduced to 284 when temporary workers had their contracts terminated and bosses have now announced that the total number of jobs lost is expected to be around 210 after chiefs went back to the drawing

112 applications for voluntary redun-dancy have been accepted, while 12 workers have been redeployed to other areas of the local authority. Finance chief Councillor Chris Towe

Finance chief Councillor Chris Towe said £19 million was still being cut but that savings would be made in other areas. He said: "It is a moving feast at the moment and the proposals are yet to be finalised. "When we drew up the draft budget it was the worst case scenario but that

it was the worst case scenario but that has now changed and it could still change further. We want to keep as

many staff on as possible as without workers we won't have a council." It comes after chiefs revealed the It comes after chiefs revealed the package of savings that would see the children's services department budget cut and Walsall Museum close.

The final budget will be approved next month by the council.

Some 55m will be slashed from the children's services budget.

The department came under fire last year when Ofsted judged safeguarding services and its canacity to improve as

services and its capacity to improve as inadequate – although it has since improved to be rated as adequate.



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BEST **OF PETER** RHODES

MAXIMUM respect to Chris Packham, posing on Win-terwatch (BBC2) with an enormous golden eagle on his arm. There is absolutely no guarantee that a bird so big and strong will not develop a sudden taste for human

FRED Pring died of heart failure in his north Wales home. Ar inquest heard this week how his wife made frantic 999 calls but paramedics nearby were on 'mandatory and undisturbable' rest breaks. When did a patient's life become less turbable' rest breaks. When did a patient's life become less important than a paramedic's tea and buns? A reader tells me he had a blazing row on the phone a couple of years back when his partner fell ill but the ambulance service insisted the symptoms didn't merit an ambulance. He contacted his doctor who whistled up an ambulance PDQ. When his partner got to hospital she was found to have a perforated bowel, peritonitis and heart failure.

WE TOOK our old moggie for his annual cat-flu jab and he has not been the same cat since. As I write this he's he has not been the same cat since. As I write this he's in full flump-mode, lying on the warm top of the stove as limp as a rag. An online search reveals that loss of appetite and inactivity are common side effects of the annual booster injections and there's some debate as to whether older cats really need them. Pet-insurance companies insist on these jabs but what do vets think?

IT WAS one of those Should've Gone to Specsavers moments. I thought the headline said: "Batman tries to arrest Blair." I felt a brief moment of joy that, as every other inquiry and legal process seems to have failed dismally, the Caped Crusader of Gotham City was at last fingering the former prime minister's collar. No such luck. On closer reading, it was not Batman but a barman at a London restaurant. Twiggy Garcia tried unsuccessfully to make a citizen's arrest on Blair for the 2003 invasion of Iraq. Blair pageratity attempted to turn the conversation around with apparently attempted to turn the conversation around with a breezy: "I think you should be more concerned about Syria." That's a typical bit of Blairism. If things get sticky, let's all smile, bluster, change the subject and move on. The problem for about 500,000 Iraqis is that the only place they moved on to was the grave. There will be a reckoning, Tone.

THE new series of Michael Portillo's Great Railway Journeys (BBC2) is a heart-warming odyssey on gloriously punctual British trains with spotless carriages that are never more than half-full, staffed by smiling, helpful employees and with not a drunk in sight. This is what television people call "factual" programming. apparently attempted to turn the conversation around with

and mild, wet winters? And then they changed their minds and said global warming was old hat and the new term was "climate change" which accounts for "extreme climate events"? Well, forget all that. This week's news from researchers at Reading University is that our summers could become cooler, but less rainy. I hesitate to report this because, by the time this column appears, the Reading version may have been overtaken by another global guesstimate. There does seem to be a growing consensus that global warming will, er, make things cooler. But who knows what next week will bring?

AND now, possibly the most inept and offensive invitation ever extended by a political leader to a minority group. President Puttin says gays are welcome at the Sochi Winter Olympics, so long as they "leave the children in peace." Maybe Puttin, or Vlad the Unveiler as he is sometimes known, deserves some credit, for at least

dren in peace." Maybe Putin, or Vlad the Unveiler as he is sometimes known, deserves some credit, for at least he managed to make this announcement without taking ne managed to make this announcement without taking off his shirt, riding a horse or brandishing a gun. As a quick tour of the internet proves, the more he does the butch, anti-gay thing, the more Putin becomes a bit of a gay icon. I'm sure we all look forward to him being photographed with the Olympic Village People.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Jail on hold for man who stalked ex **Pointless**

A STALKER who hounded his ex-girlfriend with phone calls, turned up on her doorstep and went to her workplace begging to rekindle their relationship has been slapped with a restraining order and suspended jail

term.

Mandip Singh, of Walsall, also made his 40-year-old ex-partner believe he would kill them both by sending an email making reference to them being with her late father soon. Walsall Magistrates Court heard that the pair ended their rela-

tionship last November but 31-year-old Singh then started constantly pestering her for more than a fortnight.

night.

Mrs Maggie Meakin, prosecuting, said Singh also posted a drawing through her letterbox of himself, Miss Wilson, her dog, horse and late father. She said Singh went to the victim's home on November 4 last year, telling her he had taken an overdose and she called him an ambulance. The court was told that Singh kept calling her, begging her

to take him back, but she said their relationship was over.

The victim was also followed by Singh while she was on her lunch break from work in Sutton Coldfield and he made further pleas.
Singh, of Lichfield Road, Rushall, was arrested and admitted that his ex partner had told him the relationship was over and not to contact her, but stated he was trying to arrange to collect his property. Singh admitted stalking the victim between November 1 and 20 last year.

Singh, who was previously given a six-month restraining order against Miss Wilson in August 2012 for harassment, was handed a seven-week prison sentence, suspended for 12 months. He was given a community order, with a 12-month supervision requirement, 150 hours unpaid work, and was ordered to pay £100 compensation, £85 costs and £80 victim surcharge. victim surcharge

Singh was also handed a restraining order, meaning he cannot cont act the victim for two years.

pals win cash prize of £3,500

TWO long-standing friends found their efforts were Pointless when they put their relationship to the test.

Jeff Chilton and Tom Allsopp, an English teacher at a school near Walsall, scooped the £3,500 jackpot on the BBC daytime quiz, proving they had more obscure knowledge than their rivals.

Pals since attending high school in Hednesford at the age of 11, Jeff and Tom had already been knocked out of one show, but returned the following day to win the prize money.

money.

Jeff, who lives in Lower
Penn with wife of six months
Sam, scored a hat-trick of
scoreless answers in the final scoreless answers in the final round, naming three members of Terry Venables' England Euro 96 squad. None of the 100 people surveyed had named either Tim Flowers, Steve Stone or Steve McManaman.

Tom, an English teacher at Cheslyn Hay Sports & Community High School, said: "I just left it to Jeff as football is not my field of expertise."

He added the pair could not believe their luck as the scoreboard ticked down to

scoreboard ticked down to

"When the score went down it just became a blur. We were flabbergasted," he said.

Typhoon aid from singers

YOUNGSTERS from a Sikh temple in the Black Country

temple in the Black Country burst into song to help raise £3,000 for the victims of the typhoon in the Philippines. Around 16 youngsters from Walsall and Wolver-hampton joined worshippers at the Guru Nanak Gurd-wara in Well Lane, Wednes-field, as part of the nat-ionwide Khalsa Aid appeal. Scores of neonle witnessed

ionwide Khalsa Aid appeal.
Scores of people witnessed
the show, which featured
children aged between five
and 16. The performance
formed part of a two hour
programme featuring Sikh
meditation and hymns, as
well as guest speakers and
exhibitions.

Plea on panels

VOLUNTEERS are needed to sit on panels to consider school place applications. Walsall Council and lay panel members would also listen to parents and schools in reviewing whether chil-dren should be permanently excluded. Anyone interested should call Glenys Ensor on 01022 654367 01922 654367

Deaf and mute robber is given sentence warning

warned he faces up to three years behind bars after robbing and conning victims with similar disabilities.

Cruel Burt Ledsam befriended disabled people and fleeced them for thousands of pounds in a variety of scams. He pleaded guilty to two charges of robbery and a similar number of fraud offences involving more than £5,000 when he appeared at Wolverhamp-

more than 1.5,000 when he ton Crown Court.
The 22-year-old used threats and intimidation to force a deaf man to withdraw a total of £3,500 in five days last July from a bank in Walsall. Ledsam was seen on CCTV. tries accompanies. CCTV twice accompanying the victim who had to travel to the branch on a mobility scooter from his nearby

He also tricked two deaf women with learning diffi-culties out of around £1,800 culties out of around £1,800 by posing as a support worker. He told the first of these, who was aged 58, that he was arranging new accommodation for her and needed money to pay for wallpaper and other fittings at the non-existent flat.

Trickster

Mr Stephen Thomas, prosecuting, said she handed over money on eight separate occasions between January and June last year with a total of £1,500 involved in the scam.

involved in the scam.

Another woman gave a further £300 after being conned by the trickster into helping her friend pay for goods for the non-existent flat, added the lawyer.

Ledsam from Latches Close, Darlaston admitted twice committing fraud by falsely representing himself to the two women as a

falsely representing himself to the two women as a support worker collecting money towards a new flat. He further pleaded guilty to robbing a man who also had learning difficulties and was

by David Banner deaf of a total of £3,500 on two dates in July.

He had previously claimed that the money had been given to him freely by the three victims but changed three victims but changed his plea to guilty on all four charges as his trial was about to start at Wolverhampton Crown Court. A jury that had been put in charge of the case but heard no evidence formally returned guilty verdicts.

Mr Gurdeep Garcha, deending, told the court that the change of plea followed

the change of plea followed discussions with his client who had now had time to reflect on the situation. He

who had tume to reflect on the situation. He said that the attack on the robbery victim had involved a single punch to the arm. Recorder Stephen Linehan QC indicated that the defendant would not be jailed for more than three years for the offences before remanding him in custody for pre-sentence reports until Pebruary 11. He said that it was important that three vulnerable witnesses would now not have to go through the ordeal of giving evidence to the jury during a trial.

ordeal of giving evidence to the jury during a trial.
Ledsam's only previous conviction involved an attempt to obtain property by deception that followed an incident when he was 16 years old and tried to get a 23 refund by claiming he had lost money in a photo machine. He received a conditional discharge.

Pupils help church celebrate



Front, the Rev Liz Chamberlain, with from left, Adel Khan, 10, Debra Roberts, 16, Nathon Brickliffe, six, Hamnah Ali, six, George Cooke, 15, and Hollie Timmins, 10

AN EXHIBITION involving the work of pupils will form part of celebrations to mark the 800th year of a landmark church. Youngsters and teenagers from Blue Coat infant, junior and academy are showcasing their creative writing and artwork at St Matthew's Church in Walsall.

The Locking Bock Looking Forward

The Looking Back, Looking Forward exhibition will run from February 5 to 8 with visitors asked to write about their memories of St Matthew's and the schools.

The theme of the exhibition will be to reflect the 800-year history of the church off St Matthew's Close and the longstanding links with the school.

Reverend Liz Chamberlain said: "This is a very exciting venture which is part of a programme of events during this special year. We are really pleased that the schools want to be part of our celebrations and we are sure that many people will want to come and see the pupils work on the history of St Matthew's and their hopes for the future." The free display will be open to the public from 10am to 2pm on weekdays and from 2pm to 6pm on the Saturday.

The church is one of the most iconic in the borough, standing at the top of the town.

Work to repair the roof of the vandal-hit church is due to begin this year.



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Governor nominees sought at **NHS Trust**

NOMINATIONS are being sought for a new public gov-ernor for Walsall at the Black Country Partnership NHS Foundation Trust.

Residents in Walsall who are over the age of 16 with an interest in specialist healthcare can stand as a public governor for the Trust.

Governors represent the interests of the people in the

Governors represent the interests of the people in the area they serve.

As well as gathering the views from local people and feeding that information back to the trust, they also work on their behalf to improve health services.

Mel Passmore, Wolverhampton Governor, said:
"In Walsall, where we provide specialist learning disabilities services, two public governors have worked hard over the last two years to ensure the interests of Walsall people are taken into account when services are planned.
"If you have an interest in services provided by the trust, then this is your chance to represent your local community"

chance to represent your local community."

local community."

Nominations are now taking place, with voting due to start on February 28.

Nominations are also open for four staff governors who represent the views and opinions of colleagues within their area.

People who would like to

People who would like to run for governor can call 08000 130 103.

Revamp for centre set to boost town

THE START of work on a multi-million pound shop-ping centre revamp will be a boost to the rest of the town, a council chief has said.

Hoardings are starting to go up around the Old Square Shopping Centre in Walsall ahead of work on the first phase of a £21m transformaphase of a £21m transforma-tion. Primark and Co-op are moving in as part of the 55-week construction pro-gramme in Digbeth.

The council has agreed to invest up to £8 million to get the scheme off the ground.

the scheme off the ground.
Regeneration chief councillor Adrian Andrew said:
"This isn't just about Walsall Council stepping in to bring two new shops to the town centre, but also employment opportunities in the supply chain."

Ellie hopes campaign will go swimmingly



Walsall's Ellie Simmonds

WEST Midland sporting stars are among the famous faces backing the return of Sport Relief and urging people to sign up for one of the events taking place.

Backing the public to swim to raise extra Sport Relief cash. Leigh-Anne Pinnock, from Little Mix, who are recording this year's single Word Up, said: "We just got back from Liberia where we visited a variety that's been helped with

This year for the first time, the This year for the first time, the public can make every mile count by choosing to run, swim or cycle at the Sainsbury's Sport Games from March 21-23 with events taking place in Wolverhampton and Birm

project that's been helped with money raised for Sport Relief.

Highlights
It was shocking to see how tough people's lives are in the slums there, but knowing how the money raised ingham. really does help change lives was
Walsall-born Ellie Simmonds is inspiring and that's why I hope

everyone gets involved." During last year's event, people in the West Midhands raised more than £1.88m which has helped fund more than \$360 projects across the region.

Highlights of this year's campaign will include a night of Sport Relief television on March 21 with presenters including Gary Lineker, Gaby Logan, Claudia Winkleman, Jack Whitehall and Clare Balding.

The show will see celebrity performances, comedy sketches, highlights from this year's challenges and films about the work Sport Relief

supports. Del Boy and Rodney will also be back on TV screens with a special Only Fools and Horses Sport Relief sketch. Strictly host Tess Daly will reveal the judges' favourite partnership from Sport Relief Does Strictly, where four Paralympians and their dance partners will have taken on a challenge, hoping to impress judges. On March 23 the Sport Relief Games Show will be broadcast with Alex Jones and Matt Baker presenting from Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park. Go to sportrelief.com to donate.

in brief

Football trouble admitted by men

THREE men from Walsall have admitted their part in football violence when trouble flared between Walsall FC and Shrewsbury Town fans.

Ben Edwards, aged 26, Stephen Leonard Jnr, 51, and Stephen Leonard Jnr, 28, all from Walsall admitted violent disorder in rel-

ted violent disorder in rel-ation to trouble before the match on October 14, 2012, at Shrewsbury

2012, at Shrewsbury Crown Court. Edwards, of Roebuck Road, Stephen Leonard Snr, of Kent Street, and Stephen Leonard, also of Roebuck Road, will appear in court again on February 12.

Crackdown on dumping costs

A CRACKDOWN on fly-tipping has been backed to reduce the annual £140,000 clean-up bill. A £100 reward has been launched by Walsall Council for information

Council for information
leading to a prosecution.
Councillor Ian Shires, a
member of the Cabinet,
said in New Invention
and Short Heath range
from 20 fridge freezers, 50
inch flat screen TV boxes,

shopping trolleys, mat-tresses, garden furniture and bin bags. Incidents of fly-tipping should be emailed to envi-ronmental health at environmentalhealth@walsal l.gov.uk or call 01922

Baby care boost with cradle club

With cradle club
PARENTS can take their
babies along to a club
aimed at encouraging
youngsters to enjoy stories and rhymes from the
moment they are born.
The Cradle Club in
Brownhills is aimed at
parents and carers with
children aged up to twoyears-old. It will be held at
Brownhills Library every
Wednesday in school term
time between 10.00am,
and 11.30am.
People can turn up on
People can turn up on

People can turn up on the day or call 01922 650730 for information.

Steaming ahead with latest book

A GUIDE of locomotives in Staffordshire is the focus of a new book. Wildlife Through Staffordshire by Paul Leslie Line and Matt Langham has been published by Walsall-based Mangacles Awshire Park Mapseeker Archive Publishers. It also features verses by Aldridge poet Ian Henery.

Celebrations for youngsters with best-ever GCSE results

PUPILS at Brownhills School have been celebrating their school's best-ever results - as the Walsall borough climbed up the league table.

On Thursday, Walsall was revealed as 103rd in the country for GCSE performance. The local authority was 47th for A-levels in the country and 49th for voca-

Piles fear man died following operation

A MAN who went to his doctor thinking he had piles died less than a month later after developing complications from surgery, an inquest heard.

Barry Williams, of Bloxwich, complained of pain while visiting his doctor in April 2010. It was thought the 66-year-old had piles, but the foundry worker was diagnosed with a perianal abscess a few days later and underwent a colostomy and

abscess a few days later and underwent a colostomy and surgery at Walsall Manor Hospital to cut off dead tissue, Smethwick Coroner's Court heard.

But the 66-year-old suffered a cardiac arrest after developing fecal peritonitis due to a perforated small bowel and died on May 21, 2010. The inquest was told that a post mortem examithat a post mortem examination also found that severe necrotizing fasciitis, a flesh-eating disease caused by infection, had con-tributed to his death.

tributed to his death.
Recording his conclusion,
Black Country Coroner
Robin Balmain said: "Death
was as the result of complication of necessary emergency surgery properly
indicated and performed."

country and 49th for vocational courses.
Brownhills headteacher Helen Keenan said she was delighted as her school was named the seventh top performer in the borough for its GCSEs, as 68 per cent of 117 pupils achieved five grades at C or higher, including English and maths.

She said: "We were delighted by the record examination results in 2013 which reflected the hard work of students and staff and the support of parents and governors. This follows a highly successful Ofsted in June."

Official

Official

Last Thursday's tables also reveal that almost a quarter of a million fewer children are being taught in failing according to the children are being taught in failing according to the children are being taught in failing according to the children are being taught in failing according to the children are being taught in the children are being taught in the children are the children are being taught in the children are being taught in the children are t failing secondary schools compared with three years

ago.

The number of schools falling below the Government's floor target for secondaries has more than halved since 2010, according to official data contained in new performance tables. But there are still just over 150 schools that are considered to be under-performing, collectively educating almost 120,000.

The new league tables are

ing, collectively educating almost 120,000.

The new league tables are based on data and information provided by the Department for Education (DfE).

The results show how every school and college across England performed at GCSE, A-level, other academic and vocational qualiat GCSE, A-level, other academic and vocational qualifications in 2013. Education Secretary Michael Gove said that the figures were 'a credit to the professionalism and hard work of teachers'.



Brownhills pupils James Haddock, Remi-Leigh Williams, Lucy Beardsmore, Lewis Aulton, Jagdeep Sidhu, Ben Boulter, Katy Blackwell and Lauren Powell celebrate getting results which helped put the authority up the league

Vet's nurse overdose tragedy

A VETERINARY nurse accidentally died from an overdose of medication prescribed for high blood pressure – after being confronted by her partner over suspicions she took thyroid drugs intended for animals.

Nicole Firth, aged 27, collapsed while visiting her GP on October 15 last year after being accompanied there by staff from a nearby chemists', the inquest heard. She was taken to Walsall Manor Hospital, but she died despite efforts to save her.

Black Country Assistant Coroner Mr Angus Smillie told the inquest a

toxicology report showed Miss Firth, who was prescribed the beta-blocker propranolol, had 9.1 milligrammes in her system, an amount 'consistent with overdosing'. The cause of death

with overdosing. The cause of death was given as propranolol overdose. He said she had previously been treated in hospital for overdoses. Dr Diana Newson, based at Lichfield Street Surgery in Walsall town centre, said there had been concerns over the presence of the levels of thyroxine, a thyroid hormone, which showed up in hospital tests. But Miss Firth, who had thyroid issues, denied taking 'fictitious

thyroxine'. Her partner Keir Lidster said he confronted Miss Firth the day before her death with his suspicions that she was taking thyroxines after finding it on several occasions.

finding it on several occasions.

He said they discussed the issue that night and he told Miss Firth unless she told the truth he could not help her. He added she had been upset and had sent texts to him and her family the next day. Mr Smillie said he was not satisfied beyond reasonable doubt that she had intended to take her own life and concluded that Miss Firth, of Lichfield Road, Butts, Walsall, died accidentally.

Cloudy2Clear Windows Service With A Smile!

It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in renairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes - not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services

Managing Director Brian Stanley feels that it's all about service. 'Our product is simple If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people

money, although that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done.

We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole

Cloudy2Clear service Wolverhampton and the surrounding

area and Brian is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. 'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people

I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated.'

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Brian a call for a free quotation on 0800 61 21 118 and he'll be happy to help!



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NEWS FEATURE



BENEFITS Street, poverty porn, exploiting the most vulner-

porn, exploiting the most vulner-able members of society.

Apparently, the Channel 4 documentary has attracted 1,700 complaints, and now MP Austin Mitchell has waded into the debate, saying that pro-gramme makers had 'conned people into appearing in the programme, and put them 'on show like animals in a zoo'.

Ilke animals in a 200: Steady on there a bit, old boy. While I can certainly sympathise with the normal, law-abiding and hard-working residents of James Turner Street who were not selected to take part in the series because their lives were series because their lives were not colourful enough, and now have to live with the stigma of the way the street has been portrayed, I do think some of those in the series protest too much.

Certainly, some of the show's 'stars' – who claim they were duped by Channel 4 into appearing on the series – do not appearing on the series – do not appear

ing on the series - do not appear to have been too reticent in coming forward to other sections of the media.

tions of the media.

But for those genuinely concerned about television's exploitation of the poor, weak and unintelligent, then I would be much more concerned with what ITV has planned for later in the

year.
The network is planning to screen a reality series where deluded individuals are invited to humiliate themselves on national television, before being berated for their stupidity or ineptitude by multi-millionaire business-

Candidates for the show are recruited on the pretext that they recruited on the pretext that they have a slim possibility of a career in showbusiness, and are rigorously vetted prior to their appearance to ensure there is just the right mix of oddballs.

Those participating are encouraged to plead for their continued presence in the show, especially if it includes a soft

especially if it includes a sob story about financial hardship or personal tragedy. Highlights of previous series have included a previous series nave included a man who refused to budge after lying down on the stage, and a girl who punched her best mate in the face after receiving a tongue-lashing from the tycoon who refuse in million from the who rakes in millions from the show. X Factor is back for a new series in September.

plastic joystick has always been a bit of a mystery.
So the motives behind the man in Kansas who reportedly ran back into his burning house to rescue his Xbox is truly impossible to comprehend.
According to reports, the man had endangered his life. Assuming, of course, he had one to begin with.









Making sure that our region is done proud

DANIEL WAINWRIGHT

looks at plans under way to celebrate the region's special day in 2014

A LONE flag flying outside a government office in London was no way to celebrate everything that is good about the Black Country.

Now plans are under way to make sure more is done to recog-nise the region's special day in

2014.

Dudley is already flying the official Black Country flag, designed by school pupil Gracie Sheppard, as the countdown begins to the official Black Country Day on July 14 - the anniversary of the invention of the Newcomen Englighted

Delighted

Delighted

And with plenty for the Black Country to shout about – from food delicacies such as grae paes and bacon to stars such as One Direction's Liam Payne and Beverley Knight, who both hail from Wolverhampton – renewed calls are now being made to make sure the region is championed come July 14. Dudley has long been acknowledged by many as the 'capital' of the Black Country – something which deputy council leader Pete Lowe is keen to celebrate by flying the flag which features a chain to represent the manufacturing heritage of the area.

The upright triangular shape in the

heritage of the area.

The upright triangular shape in the background recalls the iconic glass cones and iron furnaces that were once commonplace throughout the region.

"All of us living and working in the area have plenty to be proud of and as



Gracie Sheppard, who was the designer, with councillor David Sparks, left, and councillor Pete Lowe who are showing off the flag

the capital of the Black Country here in Dudley we are determined to ensure we celebrate who and what we are.'

Councillor Lowe said.

"I for one am delighted to see that we will have a Black Country Day to celebrate each year and want to help ensure that in 2014 as many people as possible join in celebrations to recognise the area's achievements."

Last year the flag representing the Black Country was hoisted above the Department for Communities and Local Government's offices to coincide with Black Country Day.

Dudley South MP Chris Kelly met with government minister Eric Pickles who described the area as 'of

England's industrial giants'.
West Bromwich East MP Tom

Watson led calls for a proper Black Country Day last year and has urged local authorities to do what they could in 2014 to make sure the day was one to remember: "I commend Dudley Council for its excellent leadership on

"It is a day when we can celebrate the cultural, economic and political influence of a very important region of the country."

ence of a very important region of the country."

Dudley Council leader David Sparks added: "Cornwall has a flag, Wales has a dragon, Scotland has its referendum and now we can proclaim that we are also a special place with a special culture.

"As the capital of the Black Country I hope Dudley borough people and organ-

As the capital of the black Country I hope Dudley borough people and organisations will show off the flag with great pride not only on July 14 but all year round."

round."
Wolverhampton City Council also wants to join in the celebrations, but isn't flying a flag any time soon.

Activities

Activities

Council leader Roger Lawrence said:
"I'm not even sure how we'd go about
getting one. For all I know there's only
one flag between us.
Walsall Council's leader Mike Bird
added: "People think of the Black
Country as a grimy, smoky and horrible
place which it most definitely isn't. "We
should celebrate our part in the industrial revolution."

should celebrate our part in the industrial revolution."

To try and kick off the celebrations Dudley Council is working with community groups and traders throughout the borough to organise activities to mark the day. Councillor Lowe said the feedback so far had been positive.

The Black Country Living Museum has announced it will hold a Black Country weekend on July 12 and 13 with another celebratory evening taking place on September 13.

Smaller community events are also being planned.

THROUGH THE YEARS

1984

PART-time fireman PAHI-time Irreman David Bloomer was called out during the early hours of the morning - to fight a fire at his own house. A passer-by called the fire brigade during the early hours of the morning after seeing smoke drifting above the Bilbrook estate.

AROUND 20 girls at a Dudley school were sent home for wearing trousers, in defiance of uniform regulations. The fifth-formers at Mons Hill School said it was unfair that female teachers could wear trousers, but pupils had to wear skirts and stockings, regardless of the weather.

EDUCATION chiefs in Stafford-shire took the first step towards banning corporal punishment in schools. But the canings would continue for the time being, until the Government brought in new legislation to comply with an edict from the European Court of Human Rights.

1994

IT was announced that the Queen was to visit Wolverhampton, Dudley and Walsall in the summer. She was scheduled to visit St Peter's Collegiate Church, Wolves £14.5 million redevelopment at Molippur, as Church, Wolves £14.5 million redevelopment at Molineux, as well as the new floodlit track at Wolverhampton Racecourse. She would also be dropping in at Walsall's Rainbow House hospice and opening a new visitor centre at Dudley Castle.

MEANWHILE, two shots were MILANWHILE, IWO shots were fired at the Prince of Wales in an Australian park. The gunman was wrestled to the ground, and the Prince coelly told officials later: "Don't worry, these things happen."

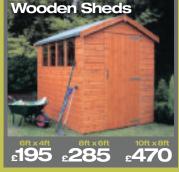
TELLY Savalas, the actor best remembered for playing the title role in the 1970s detective series Kojak, died at the age of 70.

2004

COMEDIAN Bobby Ball was COMEDIAN Bobby Ball was presented with his own souvenir Express & Star front page as he celebrated his 60th birthday in Wolverhampton. The funnyman, one half of double-act Cannon and Ball, was appearing in Peter Pan at the theatre. He said he was thrilled and planned to put the framed front page in his attic bedroom. Referring to his comedy partner Tommy Cannon, he inker! "What's good about it is." he joked: "What's good about it is the fact that Tommy hasn't got one of these."

WOLVES pulled off their second Premier League shock in the space of a week, with Kenny Miller snatching a last-gasp equaliser at home to Liverpool. The unlikely 1-1 draw came hot on the heels of a 1-0 Molineux victors were managed to the space of the s victory over Manchester United where Miller had also been on the









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LETTERS

Beeb's laughable impartiality

FURTHER to an occasional comment in the Peter Rhodes' column – the 'left-wing' bias that grips the BBC is well tknown, despite its laughable claims that it "upholds political impartiality" in its reporting.

The fact that it is financed via the public – whose political outlook may effen be contrary to that of the BBC, is left, wing media lawyers politicians and like independent TV and radio and like independent TV and radio and radi

The fact that it is financed via the public – whose political outlook may elite who are made up of the London often be contrary to that of the BBC – is quite disgraceful.

That people who do not share the BBC's political leanings are required by law to purchase a BBC TV licence, is essentially the same as being legally which lies in the fact that for years required (under threat of prosecution) people have been howling against the purchase avery single issue of a left, injuries of the TV licence (or political). required (under threat of prosecution) people have been howling against the to purchase every single issue of a leftingustice of the TV licence (on political

Walsall Chronicle, Chronicle Editorial, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton WV1 1ES

They are a highly articulate and powerful set whose influence permeates our entire society – the proof of which lies in the fact that for years

served in cleanising the BBC of its bias and, like independent TV and radio companies, forcing it to make its own way in the competitive media environ-ment – without funding from those who resent being legally compelled to

support it.
S LAMBERTON
Station Road, Aldridge

Our gratitude Referendum for residents' milestone as Bill presented kind donations

JIII JIESCHIEU
I WAS very glad to see the
EU Referendum Bill presented to the House of Lords.
This is an important milestone for the Bill to allow a
referendum on the UK membership of the EU in 2017.
Those with vested interests in Brussels like Lord
Kinnock and Lord Mandelson will complain about giving a choice to the electorate.
However, the people of
Walsall North have been
denied their say on our
membership of the EU and
its predecessor organisa-

its predecessor organisa-tions for 40 years.

The European Union has changed immensely, going from an economic free-trade group to a major political body. The Conservatives are the only party committed to giving the British public the

ferendum they deserve. **D HANSEN-LUKE** Prospective MP Walsall North

MEMBERS of Burntwood Lions would like to express their gratitude to all the res-idents of Burntwood who kindly donated to our annual tin collection. We managed to beat all records. This will enable us, on your behalf, to help more of the needy and disadvan-taged in Burntwood, by sup-plying them with a very

plying them with a very welcome food parcel. All the tins collected will be sorted and date matched, then made up into parcels and delivered within the next two weeks. We would also like to thank all of the volunteers who gave up their time to help deliver leaflets and collect the tins. If anyone would like to find out more, or attend any of our meetings, you will be

ade very welco: KEN GRANT PR & Membership Chairman

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number of the writer. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters. Licensing issue that is not all black and white

E-MAIL

walsallchronicle@

THE ARTICLE in the Express & Star, 'Black and white TV about to fade', caught my eye. How are these TVs being operated, with a black and white licence? Are new black and white digital sets being made?

ETTERS to the Editor

digital sets being made?

Many years ago when I moved into my flat I was given a black and white TV which I used for many years. B eing out of work I couldn't, unlike some people on the dole, afford a colour TV. However, once back in work, I bought a video recorder, but as it received in colour, I had to buy a colour listense.

Aren't digital receivers for colour also, or has the licensing uthority changed the goalposts? R HARBOUR, Rose Hill Gardens, Willenhall

Don't forget male ironers

I READ the Express & Star report on ironing (Tuesday, January 7) and you have failed to mention that a lot of men now have to do this chore as well as the cooking, cleaning and using the washing machine.

As far as ironing is concerned I just regard this as a job

As far as ironing is concerned 1 just regard this as a job that has to be done, neither love it or hate it.

Since my father died four years ago I have lived on my own and it is surprising what can be done if one puts one's mind to it. I also have to juggle full time work, so most tasks are left to the weekend. Regarding Kirstie Allsop, I don't

nink she lives in the real world.

D H MEAKIN, Pleck, Walsall

Calling all Bridgwoods

I'M RESEARCHING the Bridgwood family tree and in doing so am trying to trace Anthony (Tony) Bridgwood, husband of the late Gladys, who would now be about 74, in

husband of the late Gladys, who would now be about 74, in the hope he can help me.

His last known address was Watts Close, Tipton and he is known to still live in the area. I can be contacted on 07800 893775 or write to 5 Pargeter Court, Walsall, WS2 8UJ. G PAYNE, Walsall





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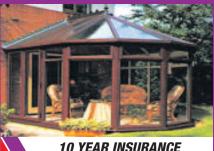
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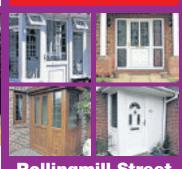
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NEWS

Fury at parking claims Roadworks delays alert

It insists that an obese person with a permit would have one because there is a link to a medical condition. It comes amid claims that people were getting badges for

claims that people the state of the state of

COUNCIL bosses have hit out at media reports that obese people are being given disabled parking permits.

Walsall Council says individuals applying for blue badges have various medical conditions which affect their mobility.

Walsall council says individuals applying for blue badges have various medical conditions which affect their mobility.

the individual has a permanent and substantial disability that causes inability to walk or very considerable difficulty in walking.
"Individuals applying for blue badges have a very wide range of medical conditions which can lead to severe impairment of their mobility. It is never the case that an individual medical condition including obesity would give rise to the issuing of a blue badge. Any suggestion to the contrary would be inaccurate and misleading." people because they are obese. Any suggestion to the co-"If an individual does not have an auto-inaccurate and misleading.

MOTORISTS are being warned of delays during roadworks for water main repairs.

Temporary traffic lights will operate in Walsall Road, Darlaston, from February 3 to 7. South Staffordshire Water is carrying out the

work. Next Tuesday traffic in Hospital Street, Birchills, be will affected by stop and go controls between 9.30am

Lockers were targeted by thief at gy

HE TARGETED gym users by breaking into their lockers and stealing their possessions – including two cars after swiping the keys.

But Taimoor Ali has avoided jail after his case.

were dealt with separately by magistrates.

The 21-year-old targeted Pure Gym in Walsall and West Bromwich. In one ruse, Wolverhampton Magistrates were told, he chose his victim by hanging around cutrid each great production in the lockers.

But when questioned contributions in the lockers.

But when questioned and the state of the gym to the lockers.

But when questioned it was the lockers and the lockers are the lockers. outside and engaging him in conversation to work out which was his car – before stealing the keys to a Seat Ibiza parked in Astle Outlet Park in West Bromwich in

Park in West Bromwich in February last year. In another theft, he broke into a locker at the gym in Bridge Street, Walsall, getting away with a wallet containing a driver's lience and an iPhone the same month. And he struck again on March 1, stealing keys to a BMW 3 series from a man's locker before finding the car locker before finding the car parked at a nearby Tesco.

CCTV was reviewed by police and it was discovered Ali had used a pin code

obtained from a legitimate member of the gym to get

member of the gym to get into the lockers.
But when questioned by police Ali claimed it was a case of mistaken identity. He was later positively identified by one of his victims.

Mr Malcolm Fowler, defending, said: "His money issues seem to have been addressed now he has sorted out his benefits which he receives £106." Ali, of St Paul's Road, Smethwick, had previously been given a 12-month community order for the Walsall crimes – and was only being sentenced for for the Walsall crimes – and was only being sentenced for the West Bromwich theft this week after admitting to theft. He was given an addi-tional 12 month community order and told he must carry out 150 hours of unpaid work over a year.

Fundraiser for Kenzy



Kenzy Jones with his twin sister Kadi Leigh, both aged five

Kenzy Jones with his twin sister Kadi Leigh, both aged five THE FAMILY of a five-year-old disabled boy are hoping to raise nearly £6,000 for a specialist bed to keep him safe at night.

Kyla and Kiy Jones, from Walsall, are organising a fundraising evening of entertainment at The Brunswick pub on Crankhall Lane, Wednesbury, on Friday February 7. All proceeds from the night will be donated to Newlife Foundation for Disabled Children, which is working with the family to provide a £5,939 Safespace to keep five-year-old Kenzy safe at night.

Kenzy was diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder at the age of three, and more recently he has experienced seizures and is being monitored for epilepsy. He currently sleeps in a standard out but has no awareness of danger and injures himself on the sides, which he also climbs over, causing disruption in the bedroom he shares with his older brother who has Cerebral Palsy.

His parents turned to Cannock-based Newlife Foundation for funding help. The fundraiser will feature drag artist Anett Curtain, prize bingo and karaoke. Tickets are £5 each and are available in advance from the pub. Entry to the event, which starts at 7pm, will be by ticket only. If you would like to donate towards the cost of Kenzy's bed go to the website www.justgiving.com/Kenzy-Jones go to the website www.justgiving.com/Kenzy-Jones

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Stephen's bucket list raises total of £160k

THERE are many lists showing the things you should do before you die but one young terminal cancer sufferer has created and carried out his

It all started with a tattoo in his armpit followed by a charity quiz at

armpit followed by a charity quiz at his local pub.

Now a year after publishing online his quirky wish-list of 46 things to do before he dies, Stephen Sutton, who has incurable cancer, is reflecting on 12 months of fun and fundraising. He says: "It's been an unimaginable year."

Now the 19-year-old from Burntwood is celebrating the one-year anniversary of his list by announcing the fund now stands at more than £160,000.

In the last 12 months he has played the drums in front of 99,000 football fans at Wembley, surfed a festival crowd in a rubber dinghy, learned to juggle, performed a couple of skydives, given a speech at the House of Commons and met his comedy hero Jimmy Carr.

Website

Website

Website

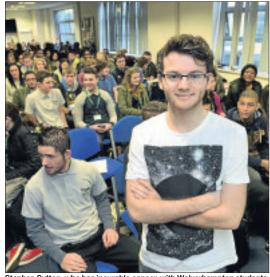
But Number I on the list, and by far the most important to him, was to raise £10,000 for the Teenage Cancer Trust, which has supported him and other young people fighting the disease.

The latest fundraising figure fills him with immense pride, and which makes him their top fundraiser on the Just Giving website. It all seems like a long time ago now but he thinks the fundraising started with a pub quiz at his local, The Wych Elm in Burntwood.

A lot has happened since, some of it not anticipated. He did not expect to enjoy the fundraising so much.

Looking back he said: "The scale of it has been so incredible, it's been unimaginable. I have benefited person-

säfe



Stephen Sutton, who has incurable cancer, with Wolverhampton students

community out there, and knowing that people care." College, has named a trophy after him. He has become something of a

He has become something of a celebrity, with 12,500 'likes' on Face-book, 16,000 followers on Twitter and a clutch of awards to his name. He is the regional winner of the vlnspired National Awards, has won Kids Count charity's Most Inspira-tional Young Person's Award and his

ally from the kindness shown by the school, Chase Terrace Technology

ne has earned standing ovations as a motivational speaker, most recently as guest speaker at the Find Your Sense of Tumour event organised by the Teenage Cancer Trust.

"T've had a really good time in 2013 and there's still a lot more to do," he caid



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Memories of Jamie at Arboretum ceremony

A MOVING ceremony Walsall Arboretum in memory of brave youngster Jamie Cartwright – who died after twice fighting off leukaemia –

The Walsall nine-year-old was tragically struck down after picking up an infection while recovering in hospital from the second bout of the illness.

second bout of the illness.

An internal investigation into the youngster's death at Birmingham Children's Hospital has been launched following an official complaint by his parents. Recently, heartbroken John and Vicki Cartwright planted an oak tree sapling in memory to their brave and courageous' son, near the skateboard park where he loved to perform daredevil stunts.

Transplant

Over 100 friends and family attended the ceremony where a poem was read out and hundreds of balloons released. Later this year a charity in his name will also be launched. Jamie, who lived in Rischale Way, Rushall, was first diagnosed with leukaemia in 2006 when he was just two years old. After intense chemotherapy he went into remission. But almost seven years later, a couple of days after Christmas 2012, they were given the distressing news that the condition was back. Throughout last year, Jamie endured more bouts of chemotherapy before undergoing a bone marrow transplant thanks to his 14-year-old brother Aaron who was a perfect donor match. Afterwards, Jamie was given the all-clear from leukaemia but tragically caught an infection, Aspergillus, which the family claim was undetected by the hospital until the youngster suffered a seizure. By that time the infec-



tion had spread to his brain and on August 7 his family were told he had suffered a brain haemorrhage. He died

suffered a brain naemor mage. He died a few hours later.

Jamie's uncle, Danny Loundes, of Bloxwich, said: "Despite everything, he was so bubbly, making everyone laugh, and he was so strong too. He was a strong too. He was a so strong too. doing so well and we all thought he'd be home permanently."

Since then, family and friends have

Since then, family and friends have thrown themselves into fundraising for the Acorns Children's Hospice in Walsall. Vicki, aged 41, is a hair stylist at a BUPA care home, and 44-year-old John, is a property maintenance worker. Mr Loundes said the couple, along with Aaron, had just endured Jamie's first birthday without him. The youngster would have been 10 two weeks ago. "It's been a very difficult

time for them. Jamie's death is still very raw for all of us. But the tree-planting and balloon release is some-thing positive." Jamie's school, Little Bloxwich CofE

Jamie's school, Little Bloxwich CofE Primary, is paying its own tribute to their popular former pupil by building a shelter with a bench, to be called Jamie's Place, where children can go if they are feeling down.

Birmingham Children's Hospital has since released a statement. Spokeswoman Anna Sykes said: "We can confirm that we are carrying out our own internal investigation in response to the complaint received from John and Vicki Cartwright, following the death of their son Jamie. We will continue to liaise closely with the family and our thoughts remain with them at this very difficult time."

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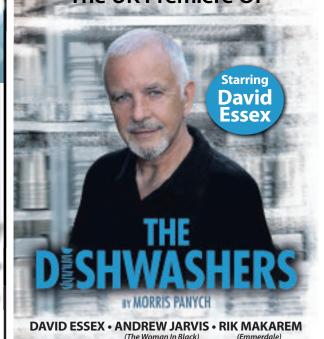
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Re-leaf for Brett as waiting game pays off to get international award

on a misty morning to capture the perfect autumnal scene, and Great Wyrley photographer Brett Critchley had to all

intents given up.
But while walking away from the woodland the decisive moment

the woodland the decisive moment inally arrived for the 37-year-old. What started as an unpromising sunrise ended up being a spectacular scene which Brett captured on camera, creating an atmospheric work of art. His image of rays of sunlight beaming through the trees onto golden leaves has now earned him an international award – with judges hailing the stunning picture as 'capturing autumn in every sense'.

ning picture as 'capturing autumn in every sense'.

Brett was awarded first prize for his entry to the Royal Horticultural Society's annual photographic competition. He beat thousands of entries from 40 countries to be named the winner in the seasons category with his image entitled Autumn Light.

Dlassed

Pleased

The photo was captured at the side of The Wrekin in Shropshire. I had just sat through a very wet, cold, foggy and uneventful sunrise and was walking back to my car when this scene pre-sented itself," said Brett, who works

for a photo selling agency.
"I shot it freehand with a wide-open aperture and was very pleased with the results."

ager thir and was very pleased with the results.

Brett added: "I very rarely enter any of my photographs into competitions, so winning this category has been both rewarding and exciting. I feel honoured that others consider this photograph to be special. When I saw the categories for this year's RHS competition I knew this was the right place for me to share my photograph," he said.

Brett also had success in the competition's wildlife category, winning third prize for his photograph of a mole emerging from underground into the



The winning picture of autumnal trees near the Wrekin in Shropshire



Popping out just at the right moment - Mighty Mole by Brett Critchley

light. He captured the image while in his mother's garden in Norwich. He added: "I didn't expect to win at all but the fact that I did and I came third for my other photograph of a mole is fan-

tastic.
"Winning has definitely given me
the motivation to enter more competitions in the future.
"I work as a photographer semi-professionally, but I would like to keep it
as a hobby more than a job."
Competition judge Chris Young,

wno is also eutor of the darden mag-azine, said: "Brett's image immedi-ately caught the judges' attention as a clear winner of this category. His strik-ing, atmospheric photo with golden leaves lit by stunning shafts of light and misty tree trunks captures autumn in every sense," said Chris. Medici Cards sponsors of the BHS Medici Cards, sponsors of the RHS

photographic competition, will also choose an image from all the entrants to publish as a greeting card.

who is also editor of The Garden mag-



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MNA Media

Forging ahead to bring new sculptures on streets of town



Artist Julie Edwards with the original plaster figure

work is under way to produce a series of sculptures that will become a feature of a leisure complex and a Black Country town. Five artworks are planned for loca-tions between Bentley Bridge and Wednesfield High Street which will be installed this summer. The sculptures, which are funded by the owners of Bentley Bridge, will consist of four cast iron creations that are to be a 'celebra-tion' of the people of Wednesfield. The fifth creation is set to be a much

structure on the Wednesfield side of the Bentley Bridge complex that directs people to key locations in the town centre. It will be made of stainless steel. Local artists Julie Edwards and Ron Thompson are behind the creations and have already had their work attached to the side of the recent exten-

sion at Sainsbury's.
Julie said: "This has been a wonderful project. The community groups at Wednesfield have been a pleasure to

work with and the support from local groups such as WV11 and the community support workers have really made this project."

The castings are being made at Purbright Castings in Chapel Green, Willenhall, with the use of metal, stone and granite plinths.

Wolverhampton City Council says the designs have been directly inspired by the knowledge and ideas of local people. The artists also consulted local schoolchildren for the project.



Purbright Castings in Willenhall where the castings for the sculptures have been made

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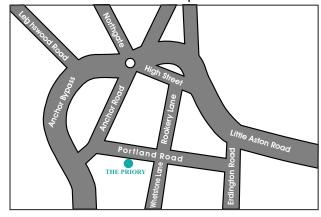
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The site of secret code-breaking activities during the Second World War, this fascinating visit gives an intriquing insight into the 'secret' part of the war effort and includes a guided walking tour. The knowledgeable Bletchley guides make sure nothing is missed and will also be able to answer any questions.

Also known as Station X, the high-level intelligence produced at Bletchley Park is credited with having shortened the war by two years, saving many lives. Code breakers decrypted and interpreted messages from code and cipher sysyems with the German Enigma machines which are on display, along with a fascinating private collection of Churchill memorabilia.

Free time in the city of Oxford is also on the itinerary where one of the grandest colleges, Christ Church, can be seen or there is the chance to join an optional excursion to Blenheim Palace - birthplace of Sir Winston Churchill, for a unique opportunity to experience the 'Palace at War' guided tour. A specialist guide will tell the story of how the palace prepared for the worst, survived the onslaught of 400 evacuated boys, yet still managed to keep the secrets of MI5.

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- •Entrance to the In Flanders Field museum •Visit to the Menin Gate (pictured)
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Organised by Newmarket Promotions (ABTA V787X)



Gym is shaping up to help parents work out

A NEW gym which features a special play area for children to use as their parents work out has

opened its doors. Friends Jenna Williams and Sam Friends Jenna Williams and Sam Clarke have launched Change Ur Shape in Bloxwich in a move which has created five new jobs. The pair previously ran a gym in Wednesbury of the same name but decided to move it to Leamore Lane. Their new facility is split over two floors.

Upstairs features a circuit aimed at women and mothers who can leave

Downstairs has cardio equipment such as running and rowing machines. Miss Williams, aged 27, said they moved locations as they felt there was a need for the gym in the area: "We're really looking forward to launching the

new business. "It's been going really well so far.
"We moved to Bloxwich because we

saw a gap in the market. There wasn't anything else like this around here."

She continued: "We've got a play area upstairs so mums can bring their children and know that they will be

The new gym opened by the friends features more than 30 pieces of equip-

There are currently plans in the pipeline to create two outdoor gyms at parks in Darlaston.

parks in Darlaston.

There are plans to install outdoor gym equipment in Kings Hill Park, in Forge Road, Kings Hill, as part of the next phase of its redevelopment and a second is earmarked for land off Queen Street, in Moxley.



Jenna Williams in the gym at Change Ur Shape, Leamore Lane, Bloxwich, which has opened a soft play area



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It's a piece of cake for Alfie's birthday double



Alfie with his cake made by baking guru Lara Clarke

TAKE 40 eggs, 5kg of sugar and 2kg of flour and what have you got? A four-year-old boy. This two-and-a-half foot cake is a dead ringer for little Alfie and his

half foot cake is a dead ringer for little Alfie and his favourite toy monkey.

It is the latest creation of Brownhills cook Lara Clarke, aged 27, who has been dazzling the baking world with her lifelike concoctions.

The cake took 15 hours to make and was ordered by Alfie's godparents Tammy and Stephen as a surprise for the youngster's fourth birthday.

It is made up of 10 different sponges and cost £400. Lara has never met Alfie or his mum Chantelle Rose, of Kings Norton, and cooked the cake based on photographs.

Fascinated

But while many may be put off eating the cake child clone.

But while many may be put off eating the cake child clone, it is fully edible and was consumed by Alfie and his family. Miss Clarke, 27, said: "The head is the most difficult thing because until you paint it you don't actually know ir it will look anything like who it is supposed to. "I was told Alfie's family wanted to keep it but I said it is all edible so they had to eat it. Mum Chantelle, 23, added: "I was fascinated by the details as it didn't look like a cake, more like a clay model. "We did eventually cut the cake up and handed it out as Lara said she makes cakes to eat."

New housing development bid at site of closed school

empty since it was closed almost 10 years ago could be transformed into 78 homes, if plans are given council approval.

The development would be built on the former Fir Tree School site, Greenside Way, if plans put forward by Persimmon Homes are given the green light by

by Persimmon Homes are Sandwell Council.

The development on the Yew Tree Estate on the Walsall-West Bromwich border, would include two, three and four-bedroom houses and smaller two-bedroom apartments.

Developers have also

Developers have also pledged to put aside 20 homes for affordable housing

homes for affordable housing.

A letter from the developer to the head of Sandwell Council's planning committee, Councillor Steven Frear, states: "The site is considered to be, in general, unkept or maintained.
"The development will contribute to the delivery of new homes to meet local housing needs."
The school closed in 2005. Before it shut residents were asked what they would like

by Simon Stone the site to become. Many said they would like it to be used for residential pur-

used for residential purposes.
But plans to sell the former school have been opposed from the start by local community group. The Yew Tree and Tame Bridge Regeneration Forum, which delivered two petitions to the council asking for the site to be kept for the community's use.

Darryl Magher, the group's chairman, said: "Our schools are already bursting at the seams and there aren't enough local amenities."

He called on the planning committee to consider a football ground for local teams.

E500 raised by panto

A PANTO performance raised more than £500 for a
Cannock charity – and brought some new year joy to an
Oldbury youngster in the process. Burntwood man Kevin
Wilcox wrote Snow White and played the Evil Queen in the
production at the old rep in Birmingham. The £581 raised
will go to the Newlife Foundation for Disabled Children and
will fund a specialist buggy for five-year old Jude GraingerSouthall, who has cartial dysplasia.

Campus start target



A computer-generated image of the planned interior

WORK is due to get under way this summer on a new multi-million pound sports and business college campus in Walsall.

campus in Walsall.

Bids are now being sought for the £7.15 million contract to design and build the new Walsall College hub next to the main Wisemore site. Interested parties have until February 17 to put forward a submission for the work, which will include the construction of business areas, sports facilities, services and landscaping.

It is subject to formal planning permission but it is anticipated the overall scheme worth up to £11m could start in July, It could then be completed in June next year ahead of the September term.

July. It could then be the September term.

Construction

Around 250 jobs will be created as part of the project, including the construction phase of the three-storey hub. The Skills Funding Agency has backed the proposals, which have received a £3.6m grant. It is planned for vacant land next to its existing Wisemore Campus in Littleton Street. It was previously the site of the old Lime House which was once used as a dentist's surgery and council offices. The college has agreed to purchase land for the new build from Walsall Council.

Court orders fraudster to pay up over false claims

than £14,000 after being convicted of fraud by failing to declare she lived with her partner.

Rachael Rogers, of Willenhall, was ordered to repay the full amount of housing benefit she had been overpaid, which amounted to £7,169.54, at Walsall Magistrates Court last week.

The court heard she received the cash over more than two years up to January 2012.

January 2012.

Mrs Kerry Munro, prosecuting, said the 35-year-old had also fraudulently claimed £4,289.90 in income support and £2,646.70 in Jobseeker's Allowance by failing to declare she lived with her partner, who was working.

Benefits

She said: "The defendant's claim was fraudulent because from at least October 2009 her partner, Lee Whitehouse, was residing at the same address as

ing at the same address as Rogers.
"She said she was the only adult living at the address."
Mrs Munro said her benefits had been paid on the basis she was a single parent with dependent children.
She told the court: "Investigations were carried out following information suggesting the mation suggesting the defendant was living with Mr Whitehouse."

by David Banner

The court heard various documents linked Mr Whitehouse to her address. Rogers, of Slater Street, Willenhall, was convicted earlier following a trial of four charges of dishonestly failing to notify Walsall Council and the Department for Work and Pensions of a change in circumstances that would have affected her entitlement to benefits. Defending, Mr Nigel Ford said despite being found guilty of the charges she maintained her innocence. He told the court she had initially started to make

He told the court she had initially started to make payments when asked to repay the authorities but had then become bankrupt. He said: "There were pay-ments for a year before my defendant became bank-rupt."

In addition to having to pay the £7,169.54 in housing benefit, Rogers was fined £200, ordered to pay a £400 contribution to costs and £20 victim surcharge.



FOCUS ON ALDRIDGE

Plans lodged for units at

TWO industrial units will be built on the site of a former Walsall Council depot,

sue of a former Waisaii Council depot, under new plans lodged, which could also see up to 30 jobs created.

The buildings would spring up in Merchants Way, Aldridge, and would provide space for several businesses starting up in the community, according to planning agents behind the scheme.

community, according to planning agents behind the scheme. According to plans lodged with Walsall Council, a two-storey building would be used for manufacturing or as a warehouse, while a single-storey building would be used as 'starter units'.

No tenants have yet been lined up but it is thought the scheme could create dozens of jobs. Planning agent Paul Wilkes said: "They are speculative units. We don't know who will go in them but it could create jobs. We have provided for six units of different sizes. They would be good for people starting out in business who want a modest, simple unit.

Boundaries

Boundaries
"I would have thought you would be looking at 25 to 30 jobs. We are itching to get on site and get on with it."
He said work on the industrial units could be completed later this year if the scheme is given the go-ahead by planning chiefs.
A planning report, submitted with the proposals, reads: "The existing site was previously a council depot. The buildings have been removed above ground. It is proposed to erect two buildings for either industrial or storage use. Both buildings are speculative, but ideally the two storey building would be whilst the single storey building would be suitable as starter units."

The council depot which was based in Merchants Way was staffed by more than 40

The council uppor which was based in Mer-chants Way was staffed by more than 40 workers but closed in 2011 in a bid to save cash. The base was for waste management and ground maintenance teams, with workers moving to a new depot in Brownhills.

Pupils show top class brains site of depot With IQs better than geniuses



Barr Beacon School pupils, left, Katy Edge, 12, and Charlotte Frazer Morris, 14, who both have IQs of 162

Einstein proved no match for a handful of pupils from an Aldridge school who beat their IQ ratings of 160 on

an Aldridge school who beat their IQ ratings of 160 on the Mensa test.

Fifteen of the 74 pupils from Barr Beacon School, in Aldridge, have been welcomed into Mensa after qualifying with a rating of 148 or more, demonstrating an IQ in the top two per cent of the population.

Katy Edge, aged 12, of Pheasey, and Charlotte Frazer-Morris, 14, of Great Barr, both scored 162 on the test, while 12-year-old Laura Sperry, also of Great Barr, achieved 161.

All three achieved scores putting them among the brightest one per cent of the population.

Year 8 pupil Katy said she was shocked when the results of the test were revealed. "I was happy and proud about it, but surprised," she said. "I want to go to university when I finish at school. I would love to be a writer or an author. I like English."

Year 9 pupil Charlotte, who is starting a GCSE-equivalent B-Tech in art this year and will also be studying economics alongside her other subjects next year, said finding out had been 'surreal'.

She said: "I couldn't put it into perspective at first.

"It was only when I did research about other IQs that I realised how well I had done. I'm proud and grateful that the school gave me the opportunity to do it."

She said her parents, Julie, 42, and Craig, 44, were very proud to find out how well she had done, adding: "They were quite enthusiastic. They are really supportive. I

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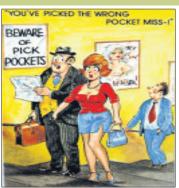


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MEMORY LANE









The cartoonist from Oldbury with some of his world

Lifetime of laughter on the cards recalled as cartoonist Charles dies

A LEADING cartoonist and comic book artist who drew Korky the Cat for the cover of The Dandy for 20

cover of The Dandy for 20 years has died aged 97.
West Bromwich-born Charles Grigg, who also drew more than 200 saucy postcard designs, penned the adventures of Korky for the comic from 1962 right through until 1982.
A son of a railway fitter and born in 1916, Mr Grigg lived in Barnford Crescent, Oldbury, for many years from 1960 with his wife Margery before moving to Halesowen.
Beginning his working life as a woodworker apprentice at the age of 14, he began selling his cartoons to the Oldbury Weekly News before he was put in touch with DC

by Adam Grinsell

Thomson, publisher of the Beano and Dandy. His first comic creation, and Dandy. His first comic creation, Scoty and His Shooter, appeared in the 500th issue of the Dandy in 1951, before he became a full-time artist for both comics.

As the artist for the famous cat, drawing the weekly strip, Mr Grigg was told by one editor that he had created the definitive Korky.

Albums

His longest running strip, Foxy, made its debut in the first issue of Topper in 1953, but went on to become a full-page strip and was included in the comic until 1976.

After retiring from his full-time work with The Dandy and The Beano aged 65, Mr Grigg restricted

himself to the albums. In an interview with the Express & Star, aged 70, Mr Grigg said: "I would say that without exception I have done the album covers for more than 20 years. I think I have added my own character to what was already an established character but I can't define Korky. It's just part of what I do.

define Korky. It's just part of what I do.
"I am quite an ordinary person. A lot of people remark on it and my answer is that it's a job, a profession, something I love doing but nothing more than a job."
Signing his name as 'Chas', Mr Grigg also drew saucy postcards for Bamforth and Co for more than 50 years, with some of the jokes reportedly being supplied by his wife.

Stephen, his son lived and looked after him for the last four years of

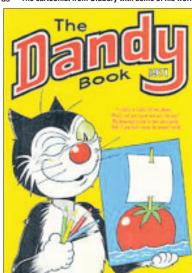
his life, said: "It was my mum who would often come up with the ideas for the dirty postcards. He was often more concerned about the artwork but he did have a good sense of humour. He was a very modest man. He never had a bad word to say about anyone. "It was brilliant growing up being his son. I would tell everyone at school what my dad did. We used to get all these free comics which was great, I remember them arriving and reading them in my bed-room. It was always magical and special looking at what dad had done."

He added that his father, a lifelong Albion fan, had once considered a career in football and even played for the Aston Villa Reserves during the Second World War, but decided to stick with his drawing working as an engineer at Henry

Hope's in West Bromwich. He still loved to paint and draw and I encouraged him to keep it up to help him with his dementia.

All you had to do was put a piece of paper in front of him and he would doodle," added the 64-year-old. His earliest published works were for two local papers, 'Rufus Rabbit' for the Oldbury Weekly News in 1945, and 'Billy Bone' for the Smethwick Telephone.

Despite suffering from vascular disease later in life, causing him to have problems with his short-term memory, Mr Grigg wrote down his life story which he would read through regularly, and look through artwork in more than 400 copies of 'The Dandy which he kept. Charles, whose wife died in 2008, leaves his two sons Stephen and Roger.



Charles' Korky the Cat was the 'definitive' version

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Great display of young home-grown folk talent

THERE is a rich and deep seam of young folk talent in the Midlands and Wolverhampton and musician Faye Katherine Brookes has scrat-

Ampton and musician raye
Katherine Brookes has scratched the surface to set up
what will hopefully be the first
of the folk Lounges in the city.
The night at the arts centre,
Dunkley Street showed not only the
quality of the talent out there but also
the depth and breadth of sound and
song which is right on the doorstep.
When you are on a bill full of artists
it can be the poison chalice to be first
up, this challenge fell to Wolverhampton singer/songwriter Rob Fellows, who
like several of the artists on the night
had to contend with sound problems.
David Fisher, another singer/songwriter and busker was next up and
opened well on the gobiron with
There's No Reason to be Sad.
His distinct voice launched straight
into the quick-fire tune and lyrics
which had a Western feel to them. With
a good rhythm he built the sound nicely





in what was a really good arm waving song, the sort that would get festival crowds swaying.

He gave up the stage to another

He gave up the stage to another Wolverhampton singer/songwriter, Daniel Kirk, who plays a four string guitar to accompany his distinctive and extremely likeable voice, but he does lose Brownie points for singing with a faux American accent.

The first of the bands took over from this point with Jenny Went Away from Birmingham. The group is made up of Rhiannon Davies on percussion, ukelele and just about anything else she feels like doing. Jenny Bulcraig on

she feels like doing, Jenny Bulcraig on guitar and vocals and Jen Waghorn on

for the whole of their set and one of their liveliest was Dancing Tree.

The second of the trio of trios was Driftwood Store with Katharine Grifths on fiddle and vocals, Che Cartwright on guitar, harmonica and lead vocals and Elie Chambers who has one of the most gorgeous voices.

They opened with the traditional and also much-covered Blacksmith and straight away it was clear they blend together with such harmony and this was also apparent with Darling I'm Cold where they combined to make a glorious sound.

this was also apparent with the combined to make a glorious sound.

The last of the trios was High Horses who, not least because of their mandolin player Adam Heath, have a very distinctive look and style, reminiscent of Jethro Tull and McGuinness Flint. They haven't integrated the full rock sound and haven't left behind the traditional folk either.

As a showcase for new Midlands folk alent and as a first effort in organising the event, Faye Brookes should be justly proud – now at the very least it should become an annual event.

Danny Farragher

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for Work & **Pensions** Help with changes to **Housing Benefit**

Working-age people living in social housing now receive Housing Benefit based on the number of people in their household and the size of their accommodation. Pensioners are not affected by this change.

This change helps families who live in overcrowded accommodation or on waiting lists to find a new home. People who rent from private landlords already get Housing Benefit in this way, and this makes it fair for everyone.

If you are affected, you should have heard from your council.

There is support to help you manage these changes, including:

- thinking about downsizing or 'home swapping' to a different sized property
- finding a job or increasing your hours can make you better off
- · applying to your council for a Discretionary Housing Payment.





Find out more about all your options at www.gov.uk/housing-benefit or talk to your council.

What's On!

REVIEW

Priscilla Queen of the Desert: The Musical,

Grand Theatre
TWO drag queens and a
transexual on a road trip
across the Aussie outback across the Aussie outback might not sound a promis-ing subject matter for a musical but Priscilla is a sensational feel-good show. Packed full of disco clas-

Packed full of disco classics and featuring the most flamboyant and bizarre frocks you will ever see, this version of a cult movie has been a hit Down Under and in the West End.

Star of the show Jason Donovan hasn't joined this leg of the tour but he has a careful a really a reall

capable replacement in ex-Hear'Say singer Noel Sulli-van as Tick, the female van as Tick, the female impersonator whose secret reason for carting his drag act from Sydney to Alice Springs is that he has a son who wants to meet him. The terrific trio are com-pleted by Richard Grippe Polyted by Richard Grippe

pleted by Richard Grieve (Aussie TV credentials inc-lude the essential Neigh-bours and Home and Away) bours and Home and Away)
as elegant transexual Bern
adette, with waspish tong
ue and warm heart, and
Graham Weaver as the
impulsive flirt Adam who
wants nothing more than to sing a Kylie medley in full showgirl costume on the top of Ayer's Rock. Of course, all their dreams

course, all their dreams come true but they have to face homophobic hostility. There is some strong language and lots of innuendo but this is a good natured show which got the Grand audience out of their seats to bogie along. Priscilla continues until Saturday.

ontinues until Saturday. LEON BURAKOWSKI

Hercule Poirot returning to solve a mystery at the Grand

Prog rock legends are back

ONE of the great rock drummers, Carl Palmer, will be playing the progres-sive rock highlights from his time with 70s super-group Emerson Lake & Palmer at Birmingham Town Hall on February 20.

ELP are no more but Palmer will be joined by virtuoso players Paul Bielatowicz on guitar and Simon Fitzpatrick bass.

Simon Fitzpatrick bass.

Several rock legends are returning in early 2014. Very Eavy Very Umble outfit Uriah Heep, featuring guitarist Mick Box, are at Bilston's Robin 2 on February 8. Martin Turner's Wishbone Ash play the same venue on February 12. American prog rockers Dream Theater are at Wolverhampton Civic Hall on February 15. On March 10 Camel perform their classic Snow Goose album at Birmingham Town Hall.



Fanfare for a great rock drummer - Carl Palmer will be celebrating the music of ELP

BELGIAN detective Hercule Poirot may have actor David Suchet but Agatha Christie's fastidious sleuth is back on stage at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre – in the form of former Jesus of Nazareth star Robert Powell.

Poirot is set to get "the little Poirotis set to get "the little grey cells" working in Black Coffee, Dame Agatha's first play and the latest production from The Agatha Christie Company, whose previous productions at the Grand include Go Back For Murder in 2013, Murder On The Nile in 2012 and Verdiet in 2011. Robert Powell received multiple awards for his portrayal of Jesus in Franco Zefferelli's Jesus of Nazareth and went on to star in numer-

and went on to star in numer-ous films including The 39

ous films including The 39 Steps.
He will be joined by Liza Goddard, from Bergerac and the long-running Give Us A Clue, former Peak Practice doctor Gary Mavers and Ben Nealon from Soldier Soldier.
Black Coffee is a quintessential English country estate whodunnit with Poirot investigating the murder of an eccentric inventor.
It will be staged at the Grand from Monday to Saturday, after the final performances of Aussie musical Priscilla Queen of the Desert.

Priscilla Queen of the Desert.



Robert Powell as Poirot

David Essex rolls up his sleeves to join The Dish-washers at Birmingham Rep from tomorrow to February 15. Musical revival Seven Brides For Seven Brothers is at Birmingham New Alexandra Theatre from Monday to

NME tour heads for O2 Academy

THE 2014 NME award

THE 2014 NME award tour features a four band line-up, headlined by New York group Interpol, at Birmingham's O2 Academy on March 25. Joining the influential US outfit will be three British bands. Temples are at the forefront of the psychedelic pop revival and the Kettering outfit have a new album out have a new album out next month. Royal Blood next month. Royal Blood are a powerhouse noise-rock duo from Brighton and Liverpool's Circa Waves are a thrilling young band in the tradi-tion of the Arctic Monkeys.

Du Beke dances into the spotlight

Into the spotlight
STRICTLY Come
Dancing's Anton Du Beke
gets his chance to shine
with special guests, West
End star Summer
Strallen and Burn The
Floor's Faye Huddleston,
during two shows in
Stimpingham Birmingham.

The ballroom dancer will be joined by Strictly singer Lance Ellington and a big band at the Symphony Hall on February 8 and 9.

Sounds of soul

SOURGS OF SOUR
SOUL DJS Ian Gee, David
Rimmer and Little Scotty
are among the line-up
taking Northern Soul
fans back to the days of
the Wigan Casino at
Dudley Town Hall on Saturday from 8pm until
late. R&B band Soul Survivor are at the same
venue on February 8. vivor are at the same venue on February 8.





What's On!

SATURDAY'S TV 1.02.14

CHOICE



Marvin Humes

The Voice UK BBC1, 7.10pm

A clever spin on so many talent shows, the blind auditions have been a delight, as they always are, not least because of the banter between the judges But Kylie admits this round is rather daunting, explaining: "They were really nerve-wracking as to when you should press the button. So many things were going through my mind." Of course, now that Celebrity Big Brother has crowned its winner Emma Willis can devote all her time to the Beeb's baby, and she's ioined backstage as always by Marvin Humes either consoling the losers or rejoicing with the chosen few

6.00 Breakfast, 10.00 Saturday 6.00 Breaklast. 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live. 11.30 Food & Drink. (R) 12.00 Football Focus. 12.45 Saturday Sportsday. 1.00 BBC News; Regional News; Weather. 1.15 Bargain Hunt. (R) 2.00 Live Six Nations Rugby Union. 4.30 Live Six Nations Rugby Union.

6.55 BBC News; Regional News;

- 7.10 The Voice UK. The fourth round of the chair-spinning singing contest, with coaches Kylie Minogue, Tom Jones, Will.i.am and Ricky Wilson aiming to bolster their teams.
- their teams.

 The National Lottery: Who Dares Wins. Nick Knowles hosts the game show in which two pairs of strangers list as much as they know about given subjects. Including the Lotto and Thunderball draws, with Kate Garraway.
- Casualty. Rita helps a rape
- 10.10 BBC News: Weather.
- 10.30 Match of the Day. Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League clashes, which included Newcastle United v ottery Update
- Lottery Update.

 1.55 The Football League Show.

 Manish Bhasin presents
 highlights and all the goals
 from today's fixtures in the
 Championship, League One
 and League Two, including
 Queens Park Rangers v
 Burnley at Lottus Road.

 1.5 Westbooks 1.2 PBC Nawe
- 1.15 Weatherview. 1.20 BBC News.

6.00 This is BBC Two. 6.35 Film: Enchanted April. (1935) 7.40 Film: The Magpie. (1954) 9.10 Life on Earth. (R) 10.05 Life on Earth. (R) 11.00 Fred Dibanah's Made in Britain. (R) 11.30 Great British Railway Journeys. (R) 12.00 The A to Z of TV Cooking. 12.45 The Good Cook. (R) 1.15 The Big Bread Experiment. (R) 2.15 Film: Anchors Aweigh. (1945) 4.30 Final Score. 5.15 Coast. (R) 6.00 Vultures: Beauty in the Beast — Natural World. (R) 7.00 Floot It Kate Bliss and David

- Beast Natural World, (R)
 7.00 Flog It! Kate Bliss and David Fletcher offer advice on antiques in Warminster, Wiltshire, while Paul Martin investigates the UFO sightings reported in the town in the 1960s and 70s
- 8.00 Dad's Army. Captain Mainwaring's men acquire a boat, planning to use it for coastal patrols, but they get lost in fog and believe they have crossed the Channel when they finally reach dry land. (R)
- when ruley linary reach dry land. (R) 8.30 QI XL. Stephen Fry presents an extended version of the quiz, and poses some unusual questions about jelly, jam and juice to Jo Brand, Liza Tarbuck, Sue Perkins and Alan Davies.
- 9.15 Film: Made in Dagenham. (2010) The female 9.15 Film: Made in Dagenham.
 (2010) The female
 employees of a 1960s
 British car firm lead a
 national Strike, denanding
 national Strike, denanding
 Arbeit of the starting Sally Hawkins and
 Miranda Richardson
 1.00 Live Davis Cup Tennis. USA
 v Great Britain.
- 1.00 Film: Comfort and Joy. (1984) 2.40 This Is BBC Two

6.00 CITV: Pat & Stan. 6.10 Pat & 6.00 CITV- Pat & Stan. 6.10 Pat & Stan. (8) 6.25 Dino Dan. (R) 6.40 Dino Dan. (R) 6.50 Dino Dan. (R) 6.50 Canimals. (R) 7.05 Canimals. (R) 7.05 Canimals. (R) 7.10 Dm Nom Stories. (R) 7.15 Sovy. (R) 7.30 Scrambled! 9.25 ITV News. 9.30 Dinner Date. (R) 7.30 TV News. 9.30 Dinner Date. (R) 7.40 Dinner

- 6.25 Regional Programme; Weather
- 6.35 ITV News: Weather.
- 6.35 ITV News; Weather.
 6.50 Splash! Perri Kielly, Michaela Strachan, Keith Duffy and Danielle Lloyd don their swimwear once more to perform two dives each in the first semi-final. Vermon Kay and Gabby Logan present.
- 8.20 Take Me Out. A Manchester football coach, a Surrey student, a carpet cleaner from Glasgow and a plumber from Bognor Regis try to impress a panel of single women. Paddy McGuinness
- presents.

 9.35 The Jonathan Ross Show.
 Taken star Liam Neeson talks
 about his new action thriller
 Non-Stop and Peter Andre
 discusses the latest addition
 to his family.
- 10.35 ITV News: Weather.
- 10.35 ITV News; Weather.
 10.50 Film: Bloody Sunday. (2002)
 15.50 Film: Bloody Sunday. (2002)
 15.50 Fact-based drama recalling
 the events when British
 soldiers opened fire on a
 parade in Londonderry in
 1972, killing 15 unarme
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CHANNEL 4

6.10 The Hoobs. (R) 6.35 The Hoobs. (R) 7.00 Trans World Sport. 8.00 The Morning Line. 9.00 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 9.30 Frasier. (R) 10.00 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 10.30 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 10.30 The Big Bang Theory. 11.00 How I Met Your Mother. 11.30 How I Met World Mother. 11.30 How I Met World The Simpsons. (R) 12.35 Undercover Boss USA. (R) 1.30 Channel 4 Racing. 3.55 Come Dine with Me. (R) 4.25 Come Dine with Me. (R) 5.25 Come Dine with Me.

- 6.00 Come Dine with Me. Russell Stubbs hosts the final party in Crewe and Nantwich, Cheshire. (R)
- 6.30 Channel 4 News
- 7.00 Speed with Guy Martin. The racing fan builds a prototype toboggan and heads to the Pyrenees, where he attempts to break the record for the world's fastest gravity-powered sled. Last in the
- 8.00 Bigfoot Files. Mark Evans biguot Files. Mark Evalis travels to America's Pacific Northwest to meet people who claim to have come face to face with a sasquatch, and Bryan Sykes reveals the results of his DNA tests. (R)
- 9.00 Hostages. Ellen and Brian come up with an escape plan, while Duncan's wife Nina tells him she wants to
- stop her gruelling chemotherapy treatment. 10.00 Film: Priest. (2011) Premiere. Fantasy thriller, starring Paul Bettany.
- starring Paul Bettany. 11.45 Film: 28 Weeks Later. (2007) Horror sequel, starring Robert Carlyle. 1.30 Film: Street Kings. (2008) 3.15 Hollyoaks. (R) 5.15 Deal or No Deal. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! 10.00 Film: Bewitched. (2005) 12.00 Film: Blue Streak. (1999) 1.45 Diagnosis Murder. (R) 2.45 Film: Columbo: Make Me a Perfect Murder. (1978) Crime drama, starring Peter Falk. 4.45 Film: Columbo: A Friend in Deed. (1974)

- Deed. (1974)
 6.40 5 News Weekend.
 6.45 NCIS. McGee tries to help his sister, who believes someone—but is too traumatised and disorientated to remember exactly what happened. Drama, starring Sean Murray. (R)
 7.35 NCIS. Two FBI agents try to seize control of the team's investigation into the discovery of a perfectly preserved body hidden in a chimney at a Manine base. (R)
- (R)

 8.30 The NCIS Movie: War on Terror. Feature-length episode. Gibbs and the team are called in to help identify US marines among the wreckage of a military aircraft transporting their bodies back home.
- 10.10 Film: The Contract. (2006) A retime: ne contract. (2006) A retired cop stumbles across a fugitive in the woods and tries to return him to custody, but the criminal's henchmen intervene. Thriller, starring John Cusack and Morgan Freeman. Edited to remove product placement.
- placement. 12.10 SuperCasino. 3.05 Botched Up Bodies, (R) 4.00 Wildlife SOS. (R) 4.25 Make It Big, (R) 4.50 The Funky Valley Show. (R) 5.00 Angels of Jarm. (R) 5.05 Hana's Helpline. (R) 5.20 Angels of Jarm. (R) 5.25 The Funky Valley Show. (R) 5.40 Hana's Helpline. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three

7.00 Top Gear, Richard Hammond drives two Lamborghinis in Italy. **8.00** Live Davis Cup Tennis. USA v Great Britain. **11.00** Family

Listings supplied by Press Associati

Poison: The Search for Modern Medicines 9.00 The Bridge 11.00 The Joy of Abba ITV2
2.35 Film: Peter Pan (2003) 4.45
You've Been Framed! 5.45 You've
Been Framed! Kids Special 6.50
Film: Miss Congeniality (2000)
9.00 Film: Quantum of Solace
(2008) 11.10 The Magaluf
Weekender

2.25 Film: Summer Holiday (1963) 4.40 Inspector Morse 7.00

Rosemary & Thyme 8.00 Doc Martin 9.00 Vera 11.00 A Touch of Frost

Drama
3.10 Cadfael 4.40 One Foot in the Grave 6.00 All Creatures Great and Small 7.00 Young James Herriot 8.20 Last of the Summer Wine 9.00 Waking the Dead 11.30 Sharpe

4.00 The Jump 5.00 Marvel's Agents of SHIELD 6.00 How I Met Your Mother 7.00 The Big Bang Theory 8.00 The Tomorrow People 9.00 Film: John Tucker Must Die (2006)

Film4
3.10 Nacho Libre (2006) 4.55 The
Thirty-Nine Steps (1959) 6.45 A
Good Year (2006) 9.00 Shooter
(2007) Action thriller, starring Mark
Wahlberg. 11.25 The Fourth Kind
(2009)

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SUNDAY'S TV 2.02.14

What's On!

CHOICE



James May

Top Gear BBC2, 8pm

After a few repeats, the good news is Top Gear is now back for a new run, and in episode one Jeremy Clarkson, Richard Hammond and James May try to prove that hot hatches from their youth are better than today's equivalents. The inaugural road trip of 2014 sees the trio tackling a hill climb and a visit to a supermarket. Clarkson is in a Volkswagen Golf GTI; Hammond has a Vauxhall Nova Sri, and May is driving a Ford Fiesta XR2i. Having completed their initial challenges, they wind up at a Welsh army training ground where they take on the Top Gear Police

BBC₁

6.00 Breakfast 7.30 Match of the Day (R) 9.00 The Andrew Marr Show. 10.00 The Big Questions. 11.00 Sunday Politics. 12.15 MOTDE Extra. 1.00 BBC News; Weather. 1.15 Bargain Hunt. 1.45 The Indian Doctor. (R) 2.30 Live Six Nations Rugby Union. 5.00 Songs of Praise. 5.35 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

Regional News; Weather.

6.00 Fake or Fortune? Fiona
Bruce and Philip Mould try to
prove a painting is by
modern master Marc
Chagall, travelling to Belarus
and Los Angeles in their
search for clues.

search for clues.

7.00 Countryfile. Worcestershire is the setting as Matt Baker visits Witley Court estate, Helen Skelton explores Wyre Forest and Jules Hudson hears about the upkeep of the Severn Valley Rallway. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.

Week Ahead.

Call the Midwife. Sister
Julienne puts her reputation
on the line to prevent a
pregnant convict having her
baby taken away by social
services. A routine check-up
leads to heartache for
Shelagh.

9.00 The Musketeers. The soldiers are sent to arrest a crooked merchant trader.

10.00 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

Weather.

10.25 A Tribute to Roger Lloyd
Pack. A celebration of the life
of the comedy actor.

10.35 Only Fools and Horses. (R)

11.10 Who Do You Think You Are?
USA.

11.50 Flim: Breaking and
Entering. (2006) Drama,
with Jude Law and Juliette
Binoche.

1.45 Weatherview. 1.50 BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 This is BBC Two. 6.05 Film:
The Whip Hand. (1951) 7.25 Film:
I'm Alf Right Jack. (1959) 9.10
Countryline. (i) 10.05 Saturday
Countryline. (ii) 10.05 Saturday
Countryline. (ii) 10.05 Saturday
Countryline. (ii) 10.05 Saturday
Countryline. (iii) 10.05 Countryline.
Cook. (R) 1.20 The Good Cook.
(R) 1.20 Film: Funny Girl. (1968)
3.45 Escape to the Country. (R)
4.45 Inspire: The Olympic Journey.
Monthly magazine series presented
by Gabby Logan. (R) 5.15 Ski
Suinday.

Dan Snow's History of the Winter Olympics. Historian Dan Snow looks back at 90 years of the Winter Olympics, examining the impact on the Games of the Little Unbeaual during the

impact on the Games of the political upheaval during the 20th and 21st centuries. (R) Flog Itt Kate Bateman and Adam Partridge value items in the spa town of Malvern, Worcestershire including a stereoscope and a painting by renowned artist Robert Lenkiewicz. (R) Tan Baez. New series

Lenkiewicz. (H)
Top Gear. New series.
Jeremy Clarkson, Richard
Hammond and James May
try to prove older hot hatches
are better than today's
equivalents. Hugh Bonneville
drives the Reasonably Priced
Car.

9.00 Dragons' Den. A former Team GB triathlete pitches an innovative sports recovery drink and a London-based husinessman raises some

10.00 The Route Masters: Running London's Roads. Last in the series.

11.00 Live Davis Cup Tennis. 1.00 Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) 2.00 Holby City. (R) 2.55 This Is BBC Two

6.00 CITV: Pat & Stan. 6.10 Pat & Stan. (R) 6.20 Pat & Stan. (R) 6.25 Dino Dan. (R) 6.40 Dino Dan. (R) 6.50 Canimals. (R) 7.00 Canimals. (R) 7.00 Canimals. (R) 7.00 Canimals. (R) 7.10 Om Nom Stories. (R) 7.15 Sooty. (R) 7.30 Scrambiel 9.25 Dickinson's Real Deal. (R) 10.20 Murder, She Wrote. (R) 11.20 TIV News; Weather: 11.25 Inside the National Diaries. (R) 1.25 Catchphrase. (R) 2.10 Splash! (R) 3.40 Film: Goldfinger. (PiS4) 4.50 Regional Programme; Weather.

Programme; Weather.
6.00 ITV News; Weather.
6.15 Dancing on Ice. The eight remaining stars are paired off in "The Duel" to impress the panel, and the loser in each battle skates again in a self-choreographed number, this time for viewers' votes. The results are at 8.30pm.

7.45 All Star Family Fortunes.
With Benidorm's Janine
Duvitski.
8.30 Dancing on Ice: The Skate
Off. One celebrity hangs up
their skates for good.

9.00 Mr Selfridge. Loxley promises Harry he can get Winston Churchill to open winston Churchill to open the exhibition, Lady Mae discovers the dire state of her husband's finances and

her husband's finances and Rose finds Gordon's racy photo collection. 10.00 ITV News at Ten; Weather. 10.15 Birds of a Feather. (R) 10.45 Piers Morgan's Life Stories: Martin Kemp. The actor and musician looks back over his life and career, (R) 11.45 Anglo-Welsh Cup Rugby Union.

Union.
12.40 The Store. 2.45 The Jeremy
Kyle Show USA. (R) 4.05 ITV
Nightscreen. 5.05 The Jeremy Kyle
Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.10 The Hoobs. (R) 6.35 The Hoobs. (R) 7.00 Everyhody Loves Raymond. (R) 7.00 Everyhody Loves Raymond. (R) 7.25 Frasier. (R) 8.25 The Taste. (R) 9.30 Sunday Brunch. 12.30 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 1.25 How! Met Your Mother. 1.55 How! Met Your Mother. 1.55 The Simpsons. (R) 3.30 Film: Eragon. (2006) Fantsay adventure, starring Ed Speleers. 5.30 Deal or No Deal.

6.30 Channel 4 News. 7.00 Jamie and Jimm

Jamie and Jimmy's Friday Night Feast. Jamie Oliver presents two shellfish presents two shellish recipes, Jimmy Doherty prepares his own charcuterie and guest Kirstie Allsopp rustles up Indian street food. Plus, a long-forgotten Sussex drink. (R)

8.00 Scandimania. New series.
Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall
explores the attractions and
culture of Scandinavia,

explores the attractions and culture of Scandinavia, starting his adventure in Sweden, where he meets Abba's Bjorn Ulvaeus.

9.00 The Jump. After weeks of training, the remaining stare reach the semi-final and the pressure is on to avoid the last ski, jump before the finale. Davina McCall and Alex Brooker present.

10.30 The Super Bowl: American Football Live. Denver Broncos V Seattle Seahawks (Kick-off 11.25pm). Coverage of the showpiece event at the Met.Lie Stadium in East Rutherford, New Jersey, as the AFC and NFC champions clash.

3.00 According to Jim. 3.45 Phil.

3.00 According to Jim. 3. 45 Phil Spencer: Secret Agent. (R) 4.40 River Cottage Bites. (R) 4.50 Deal or No Deal. (R) 5.45 Baking Mad with Eric Lanlard. (R)

CHANNEL 5

CHANNEL 5
6.00 Milkshakel; Peppa Pig. 6.05
Roary the Racing Car. (R) 6.15 Fifi
and the Flowertots. (R) 6.25 Bubble
Gupples. (R) 6.35 The Mr Men
Show. (R) 6.50 Chloe's Closet. (R)
7.00 Roobarb and Custard Too. (R)
7.10 Roobarb and Custard Too. (R)
7.40 City of Noddy. (R) 7.35 British
Make Way for Noddy. (R) 7.35 Little
7.40 City of Friends. (R) 7.35 Little
7.40 City of Friends. (R) 7.35 Little
Princess. (R) 8.05 Olly the Little
White Van. (R) 8.10 The
Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and
His Best Friend Corky. (R) 8.25
Angelina Ballerina. (R) 8.40 Rupert
Bear. (R) 8.55 Ben and Holly's Little
Kingdom. (R) 9.05 Milkshakel
Kingdom. (R) 9.05 Milkshakel
Roger (R) 8.55 Little
Princess. (R) 1.10 Depower
Rangers: Wegaforce. (R)
9.30 Lazy/Town. (R) 10.00 Power
Rangers: Wegaforce. (R)
9.11.00 Access. 11.10 Building the
London Underground. (R) 12.10
Lee Road Truckers. (R) 1.10 Ben
Fogle: New Lives in the Wild. (R)
2.10 Police Interceptors. (R) 3.50
Film: Willy Wonka and the
Chocolate Factory. (1971)
6.55 5 News.
7.00 Film: Arachnophobia.

Chocolate Factory, (1971)
6.55 5 News.
7.00 Film: Arachnophobia.
(1990) A doctor with a fear of spiders discovers his small Californian town is infrested with a horde of deadly venomous arachnids.
Comedy horror, starring Jeff Daniels and John Goodman.
Edited for language.

Edited for language.

9.00 Film: Drag Me to Hell.
(2009) Horror, starring
Alison Lohman.

10.55 Film: The Matrix. (1999)
Sci-fi action thriller, starring
Keanu Reeves.

Keanu Reeves.

1.35 SuperCasino. 3.05 Gibraltar:
Britain in the Sun. (R) 4.00 Wildlife
SOS. (R) 4.25 Make It Big. (R) 4.50
The Funky Valley Show. (R) 5.00
Angels of Jarm. (R) 5.10 Hana's
Helpline. 5.20 Angels of Jarm.

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 The Voice UK. The fourth
round of the chair-spinning singing
orntest. 8.15, live Davis Cyn
Tennis. USA v Great Britain. 11.05
Family Guy 11.45 Uncle
BBC Four
7.00 Francesco's Italy Top to Toe
8.00 Hidden Histories: Britain's
Oldest Family Businesses 9.00
Film: The Skin Live In (2011)
10.50 These Four Walls 11.50
Blondie: One Way or Another
ITV2

1TV2
3.05 Film: Dennis (1993) 4.55
Film: Despicable Me (2010) 6.50
Film: The Mummy: Tomb of the
Dragon Emperor (2008) 9.00 The
Magaluf Weekender 10.00 Film:
The Faculty (1998)

2.25 Agatha Christie's Marple 4.35 Lewis 6.45 Agatha Christie's Poirot 9.00 Les Dawson: An Audience With That Never Was 10.00 Film: Steptoe and Son (1972)

Drama
2.30 Catherine Cookson's The
Gambling Man 5.30 A Bit of a Do
6.40 Monarch of the Glen
7.50 Lovejoy 9.00 Cadfael
10.30 Jonathan Creek 11.50 A Bit of a Do

E4
3.30 How I Met Your Mother 4.00
Marvel's Agents of SHIELD 5.00
Her Tomorrow People 6.00
Brooklyn Nine-Nine 6.30 The Big
Bang Theory 8.00 Film:
Addams Family (1991)
0.00 Rude Tube 11.00 8 Out
of 10 Cats
Film4

Film4 3.10 Ramona and Beezus (2010) 5.10 Home Alone (1990) 7.15 The Man (2005) 8.55 Black Swan Interview Special 9.00 Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy (2011) 11.25 Lucky Number Slevin (2006)

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What's On!

Film Choices

MONDAY Mickey Blue Eyes, ITV, 10.35pm A strait-laced Englishman falls for a New York mobster's A strait-laced Englishman falls for a New York mobster daughter, who wants to escape her family's criminal connections. However, try as he may, he realises there is virtually no way to avoid being drawn into its members' illegal activities. Romantic comedy, starring Hugh Grant and Jeanne Tripplehorn. (1999)

There's Something About Mary, Channel 4, 11.35pm Inere's Something About wary, channel 4, 1.35pm A lovelorn man hines a sleazy private eye to track down his high-school sweetheart in the hope of rekindling their brief relationship. By unfortunate coincidence, the detective also falls for her, and then it emerges there are even more men out there competing for her affections. Comedy from the Farrelly brothers, starring Cameron Diaz, Ben Stiller and Lee Evans, (1998)

An elderly woman with Alzheimer's disease is adamant she will move into a care home to spare her husband of 50 years the burden of looking after her. Sadly, this leaves him in the heartbreaking position of having to watch helplessly as his beloved wife slips away from him. Drama, based on a short story by Alice Munro, starring Gordon Pinsent, Julie Christie, Olympia Dukakis and Alberta Watson, (2006)



WEDNESDAY

The Matador, BBC1, 11.35pm

The Matador, BBC1, 11.3spm A lonely, burn-out assassin strikes up an unlikely friendship with a down-on-his-luck businessman he meets in a Mexican bar. However, as the hitman's personal crises interfere with his work, he is forced to turn to his new friend to help him carry out a killing. Black comedy, starring Pierce Brosnan. (2005)

AcBride: The Doctor Is Out, Really Out, Channel 5,

The crusading lawyer takes on a custody case, only for The crusading lawyer takes on a custody case, only to his client to later confess to having murdered the psychiatrist who testified against him. However, when McBride shows up at the doctor's house, the body is nowhere to be found. Mystery directed by and starring John Larroquette, with Marta DuBois. (2005)

A Canadian soldier is injured in battle during the First World War, and falls for a nurse in the hospital. Declared unfit for duty due to ill health, he is reassigned to a recruitment station – but he tricks his way back to the front line to protect the brother of the woman he loves. Prame directed by and starring Paul (Bross (2009)). Drama, directed by and starring Paul Gross. (2008)

Pick of the Week

Family matters to Banks in a troublesome case

tephen Tompkinson would be wasted behind a desk in a boring nine to five office job.

As an actor, he's proved he's about as versatile as they come. We've seen him on-screen under the guise of a reporter, a priest, a construction worker, a vet and of course, dogged cop DCI Alan Banks, who's back on our screens tonight.

As we launch into another series of this fantastic drama, there's bound to be some tense moments as DS Annie Cabbot (Andrea Lowe) returns from maternity leave.

returns from maternity leave.

Banks leads the investigations after a man and woman claiming to be social workers visit a mother and tell her they need to take her son away. However when they don't return the boy, it soon transpires that the pair aren't known by the authorities. Banks pushes DI Morton (Caroline Catz) to get closer to the mother to find out why she might be targeted, but the whole things a little close to home for the detective in the face of the problems with her son. Meanwhile,

Annie believes she might have found a credible suspect for the lad's abduction at his school.

With this highly anticipated third series, it sounds like we'll be treated to all the usual gritty murder mysteries from the pen of creator Peter Robinson, as well as a bit of a delve in to Bank's private life, with the introduction of his university dropout daughter, Tracey.

dropout daughter, Tracey.

Last series, we learned a little more about Banks' immediate family, as Polly Hemmingway and Keith Barron were cast as his parents. At the time, Stephen expressed his delight at exploring the Banks character even further, saying: "With the pilot and the first series, we really wanted to establish Banks for the policeman that he is — dogged and determined — and now we've been fortunate enough to add a bit more colour to his background in a personal way."

That they did, and it went down a storm – the second series attracted 4.7million viewers in its first week. Stephen Tompkinson can rest

Among other popular shows including Drop the Dead Donkey, Brassed Off played its part in making Stephen a household name, but it also introduced him to TV and silver-screen legend and good friend, Pete Postlethwaite.

Stephen explains: "I always think of Pete, and it's almost like he's an even bigger influence now. I think about him a lot, especially when

"He had such control over his emotions and expressions, so it was always like watching a master class with Pete. He obsessed about the script, he knew he was nowhere without a writer and that's where it all starts from, those are the foundations. I always try and think what would Pete do at this moment?"

"I'm not as good as him, I never will be but I do keep trying and he still remains an inspiration."



Stephen Tompkinson stars in DCI Banks, Monday, ITV, 9pm

Best of the Rest

MONDAY Britain's Great War

Come July, we probably won't be able to budge for documentaries commemorating the 100th anniversary of the beginning of the First World War, and all thoughts will be with those who lost their lives fighting for our country. But the Beeb's getting its foot in that door early and Jeremy Paxman kicked off this stunning four-part series last week

by focusing on the early stages of the conflict. This week, the presenter follows up by describing the crisis facing the country as it became obvious that it was fatally unprepared to fight a modern industrial war. The whole population is enlisted while women fill the factories to make bombs, men are forced onto the frontline, and conscientious objectors are threatened with the firing squad.

TUESDAY

Celebrity Who Wants to Be a Millionaire? ITV, 8pm

"Is that your final answer?" It's a question that's going to sound poignant this week as Chris Tarrant presents the last-ever episode of Who Wants to Be a Millionaire? After nearly 16 years, this one-time ratings topper is being retired, but at least it's going out in style as celebrity contestants play for their chosen charities. This week's pairing are actor James Nesbitt and hidden camera-man Dom Joly, Olympic cyclist Chris Hoy and comedian Kevin Bridges, and Hairy Biker Dave Myers and Countdown's Rachel Riley - if the last two in particular sound like an odd pairing, they did both compete against each other on Strictly Come Dancing.

She's 78. He's 39: Age Gap Love

Channel 5, 9pm
Caroline Flack came in for a lot of, well, flack when she embarked upon a relationship with a decidedly vouthful Harry Styles, but was that 15-year age gap really that shocking in the grand scheme of things? Not if the people in this documentary are anything to go by. They include Marilyn, who met her husband William when she was 45 and he was just 16. The pair's relationship was under pressure from the start, with friends and neighbours pouring scorn – but they've had the last laugh, as they're still going strong now. Other couples are Edna (79) and Simon (39), who met over their mutual love of organ music, Mike (74) and Lindsey (33) who have just had a baby, and 58-year-old Gary, who enjoys clubbing with wife Kate, who's half his age.

WEDNESDAY Midsomer Murders

ITV, 8pm June Whitfield, Bernard Cribbins, Robert Bathurst and Laila Rouass will be flying high when they guest star in the latest episode of the ever-popular crime drama. They feature in a story involving aeroplanes and military heroes. Barnaby and Nelson are called in to investigate the death of Finchmere Airfield owner Bernard King, and it was no accident - he was hit over the head before being thrown out of a plane flying at

400ft. The policemen have two groups of suspects one set are from an anti-aircraft campaign. while the others are linked to a tragic Second World War mission. But can they work out who is responsible?

Inside No 9

Reece Shearsmith present a series of darkly comic tales designed to intrigue and disturb, all set behind the door of a different 'No 09'. Among them is a blood-soaked actor's dressing room in the West End, and the one-bedroom flat of an

apparently happy primary school teacher but first up is a grand house where an innocent game of Sardines leads to some chilling revelations. Guests arrive at the country pile to celebrate Rebecca and Jeremy's engagement party, but one of the bedrooms

contains secrets among some old baggage... Katherine Parkinson and Julian Rhind-Tutt are among the impressive cast of familiar faces.

THURSDAY Inspector George Gently BBC1_8.30pm

Inspector George Gently, Thursday, BBC1, 8.30pm of the crime

drama ended on a particularly shocking note with George Gently (Martin Shaw) and his partner in caught up in a shooting at Durham Cathedral. Now this new run picks up six months later (meaning we've now reached 1969), and finds that while Gently is on his way back to full fitness. Bacchus is suffering from a crisis of confidence as well as a gunshot wound to the stomach. The investigation the duo are handed this week doesn't initially look likely to reignite his enthusiasm for the job either, as they look into the death of Simon Thomas, who died in custody after being arrested during a

FRIDAY

Live Winter Olympics Opening Ceremony BBC2, 3.30pm

The build-up to the Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia, hasn't exactly been awe-inspiring. Instead, there's been controversy due to the country's new laws banning what the government country s new way canning what are government, describes as gay propaganda! Hopefully the spectacle on display at this, the 22nd time the event has taken place, will help get rid of the sour taste in some people's mouths. We've certainly been promised an amazing display featuring 2,000 performers who will showcase Russia's culture and exhibit promisers and will expected with the most promiser and will expected with the most promiser and will expected with the most promiser and will expected with the most promiser. achievements, and will conclude with the most important moment of all - the lighting of the Olympic flame, which will burn throughout the games. It certainly could do with a rest – it's spent months travelling around, even making a journey into space at one point. Hazel Irvine narrates the

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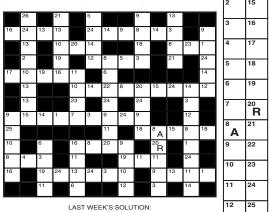
Puzzler

Brain Gym

No.258

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both

Cryptic Clues:

- Across 7. Desert dweller with
- the French kind of farming (6) 8. A long time after
- the point of second childhood (6)
- 10. Mountain chain at the end of the street is unusual (7)
 11. In this way the cover is substantial
- 12. The way one walks to make an entrance, we hear
- vacuum (5)
- 17. Petulant enough to change sides (5)

 18. What the wound leaves behind
- causes endless alarm (4) 22. Could be cited as
- an authoritative statement (5)

 23. Luck brings a great deal of money (7)
- 24. Rescues about fifty bondmen (6)
- 25. Southern region near a Greek state

Down

- An extract taken from "The Ocean Voyage" (7)
 Fastener for locks
- (4-3) 3. Often seen in the
- heavens, but not quite a heavenly body (5)

 4. The pirate has an ill-mannered ap-pearance, we hear (7)
- 5. Attack southern
- state fighting on the same side (5) 6. Finds one's way to the western extremi-
- ties (5) 9. Doesn't continue when the fall has
- taken place? (6,3)

 14. The sort of hood for a monk (7)

 15. Get a group of singers, by the sound of it (7)
- it (7)

 16. Magazine containing material likely to cause a report (7)

 19. Most satisfactory surroundings for a wild animal (5)

 20. Cleric taking part in civic arrangements civic arrangements
- (5) Cuts what farmers produce (5)

Quick Clues:

Across

- 7. Journey (6)
- 8. Trade by exchange (6) 10. Sailor (7)
- 11. Artless (5)
- 12. Observe (4)
- 13. Bury (5)
- 17. Lukewarm (5)
- 18. Sharpen (4)
- **22.** Name (5)
- 23. Try (7)
- 25. Modern (6)

- 1. Endurance (7)
- 2. Relate (7)
- 3. Intended (5)
- 4. Artist (7)
- 5. Garret (5)
- 6. Command (5)
- 9. Chief (9) 14 Mislead (7)
- **15.** Cry feebly (7)
- 19. Platform (5) **20.** Peel (5)

Sudoku

6		9	8	2			1	
U		Э	0				,	
7				6	5			3
		3	7					
1					8	6		
	2			7			3	
		6	1					7
		8			4	5		
4	5		6	8				9
				5	2	8		1

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3



LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Muses; 4 Desired; 8 Starter; 9 Grass; 10 Need; 11 Underman; 13 Ties; 14 Stud; 16 Specious; 17 Fare; 20 Agree; 21 Tactile; 22 Demeter; 23 Sheet. Down: 1 Misunderstand; 2 State; 3 Stie; 4 Daring; 5 Segments; 6 Rearmed; 7 Disengagement; 12 Penient; 13 Theorem; 15 Cutter; 18 Arnine; 19 Acts. QUICK - Across: 1 Appal; 4 Pretend; 8 Look-out; 9 Plaid; 10 Glee; 11 Unwieldy; 13 Bred; 14 Mild; 16 Hygienic; 17 Flag; 20 Agile; 21 Overdue; 22 Sweeten; 23 Dress. Down: 1 At loggerheads; 2 Prove; 3 Loot; 4 Potent; 5 Explicit; 6 Enabled; 7 Daddy-Jong-Jegs; 12 Vehement; 13 Beguile; 15 Disown; 18 Ledge; 19 Tend.



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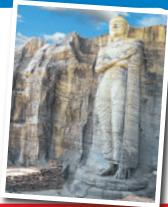
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For a different sort of experience, two nights are reserved at the Safari Hotel, which has a pool, bar and restaurant overlooking the Tiffa Lake. Just 45 minutes from the Yala National Park this is the base for an early morning start to the jeep safari in the hope of seeing leopard, elephants, saltwater crocodiles, wild boar, sloth bears, monitor lizards and a huge variety of birdlife. The three-star superior Palms Hotel in the beach resort of Beruwela is the final port of call, allowing for two days of rest and relaxation before the journey home.



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lation of kitchen, bathroom and shower room to the ground floor. A driveway to the front provides parking for two vehicles and a shared stone chipped driveway leads to garages at the rear of the property. The rear garden is on three levels with a lawn and rockery area extending down to a second tier with apple trees and privet hedges to both sides to a third tier which is fully lawned. For further details contact Tom Giles & Co on 0121 5526171 or visit the website at www.tomgile sandco.co.uk





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emi-Detached roperty Having ntrance Hall, Mod Fitted Kitchen, Lounge Three Bedrooms. Bathroom, C/Heating, /Glazing & Allocate Parking.



Three Bedroom Semi-Detached Property Comprising Entrance Hall, Spacious Lounge, Modern Kitchen/Diner, Conservatory, Ground Floor W.C, Three Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, C/Heating, D/Glazing. Close To Good Local Amenities And Transport Links. Must View!





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emi Having Entrance



ched Property prises Of Spacious ounge, Kitchen/Diner ed Driveway.



xtended Four Bed Hallway, Modern Glazing, C/Heating, Crete Print Driveway



Detached Property
Comprising Of Entrance
Hall, Lounge, Further
Separate Lounge/Diner,
Open Plan Kitchen/
Diner, Utility Area,
Ground Floor W.C, Four
Double Bedrooms With
Built-in Wardrobes, Built-in Wardrobes, Family Bathroom, C/ Heating, D/Glazing, Garage, Generous Rea Garden And Off Road

WOOD LANE, SHORT HEATH



e Bed Mid Terraced Property ng Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted ien, Ground Floor Bathroom, C/

milli







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QUIRES GATE RD, WILLENHALI Modern Fitted Kitchen, Open Plan ounge. Two Double Be ounge, Iwo Double Bedrooms, amily Bathroom, C/Heating, D/ ilazing & Allocated Parking. Ideal

DING WAY, SHORT HEATH



STROUD AVENUE, WILLENHALL

JOHNSON RD, DARLASTON xtended Three Bed End Town House



BENTLEY LANE, WILLENHALL

WOODSIDE WAY, SHORT HEATH Well Presented Extended Two Bedroom Semi Detached Property Comprising Of Entrance Hall, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen Diner, Two

LITTLE ISLAND DR, WILLENHALL

ms, Family Bathroom And ed Garage, Part D/Glazing & ing. Must View!







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£136.995





ABERFORD CL, WILLENHALL

Lounge, Spacious Kitchen, Dining Room, Family Bathroom, Separate



Willenhall **01902 60659**













Estate House, Darwall Street, Walsall WS1 1DA 0121 289 3838

Auction

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Dash Grove

Stoke-On-Trent



Barns Lane Walsall



a popular residential area this 1960's semi detached as gas fired central heating and uPVC double glazing or units are broken). Offering tremendous scope for ent the extended accommodation is conveniently ! and has open aspect to rear. The property comprises: Reception Hall, ounge, Kitchen, Breakfast Room, W.C., Three Bedrooms, Bathroom re and Rear Gardens EPC Rating D

GUIDE PRICE £80,000 - £90,000



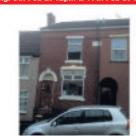


A traditionally styled part double glazed semi detached res rom the road behind a fore and side garden the property comprises Fully Enclosed Porch, Reception Hall, Dining Room, Lounge, Kitchen Three Bedrooms. Bathroom. Fore and Rear Gardens. EPC Rating G.

GUIDE PRICE £100,000 - £120,000

Spring Street Halesowen





GUIDE PRICE £65,000 - £70,000

Bathroom, Two Bedrooms, Additiona

al amenities and within easy access of Hanley City Centre and the A500 D Road and the Potteries towns. The accommodation comprises Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Two Bedrooms, Bathro te W.C. Garage Fore and Rear Gardens EPC Rating C

CASH OFFERS ONLY A well presented double glazed and central

GUIDE PRICE £55,000 - £65,000



Wolverhampton Road Walsall



ence that has been extended at ground floor level to now offer well planned spacious accommodation. Conveniently located e property comprises: Fully enclosed Porch, Reception Hall, Shower som, Lounge, Dining/Living Room, Open plan Fitted Kitchen, Three orkshop. EPC Rating C.

£85.000 - £95.000

Walsingham Street Walsall





dence situated in the popular Chuckery area of Walsa In need of some upgrades, the property offers great scope and need t Garage, Enclosed Rear Garden. EPC Rating D

£90,000 - £100,000

Station Road Telford



azed semi detached property set close to the village centre. Offerin well planned accommodation ideal for first time buyer or investor the Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Fore Garden with paved of nclosed private paves rear Garden. EPC Rating D

£100.000 - £120.000

Lysways Street Walsall



Ints tormer care home, which has 14 bedrooms, most of which have wash hand basins and some have En-suite facilities, is conveniently located close to Walsall town centre and lends itself to a range of future uses (subject to planning). Formerly three 3 storey Victorian town houses, now all linked together, the property has been extended and has a number of ancillary extended and has a number of ancillary rooms as well as good sized rear garden. The gas centrally heated accommodation set over three floors comprises. Porch, Entrance Hall, Celler, Kitchen, Store Office, Bedroom, En-Suite Shower Floorn, W.C., Bedroom, En-Suite Shower Floorn, W.C., Bedroom, En-Suite Shower Floorn, W.C., Conservatory, Seven First Floor Bedrooms, Store Cupboard, Store Room, Store Cupboard, Store Room, Five Second Floor Bedrooms (Three with En-Suite Battrooms) Fitted Kitchen, Fore and Rear Gardens.

£320.000 - £340.000

Providence Row Bilston

ime of the auction sale have been fully modernised and will benefit om gas fired central heating and double glazing. Conveniently locate Reception Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Three Bedroom athroom, Fore and Rear Gardens. EPC Rating D

£77,000 - £87,000

Oakwood Road Walsall



in need of complete modernisation and improvement making an idea nase for a builder or investor. The property comprises:- Recept Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, Shower Room (no fittings), Lobby, Extension Three Bedrooms, Bathroom (no fittings), Fore and Rear Gardens. EPC

GUIDE PRICE £30,000 - £40,000



£80,000 - £90,000

Hathersage Road Great Barr

Hednesford Road Cannock



ocation with the benefit of gas central heating (not tested) and double glazing and whilst in need of some improvements, offers a goo Dining Room, Rear Lobby, Kitchen, W.C., Two Bedrooms, Bathroo rdens. EPC Rating F.

£65,000 - £75,000

Princes Avenue Walsall



pying a delightful location just off Broadway North, this traditionally styled semi detached property offers much extended gas centrally ving is recommended to appreciate the following accomm Enclosed Porch, Reception Hall, Dining Room, Lounge, Fitted Kitcher Jtility, Garden Room, Four Bedrooms, Bathroom, Large Attic Roon vav. Rear Garden, EPC Rating D.

GUIDE PRICE £130,000 - £150,000

Calthorpe Road Walsall

Viewing: 31st Jan at 12nm & 8th Feb at 10.30a



GUIDE PRICE £190,000 - £210,000

Borneo Street Walsall



his traditional end terraced residence has undergone some ement to include double glazing and central heating but sti fers scope for further improvement. Situated in the popular Butts Reception Hall, Dining Room, Lounge, Rear Lobby, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Small Fore Garden, Yard with outbuildings ond, EPC Rating E.

GUIDE PRICE £65,000 - £75,000

Castle Street

Walsall



 CASH OFFERS ONLY● are invited for this non traditional, sen letached residence that is need of modernisation. Benefiting from double glazing the property is conveniently located just off the A5 and would make a smart investment for buy to let landlord. The accommodation comprises: Reception Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Lobby, W.C., Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Fore and Real

£49,000 - £59,000











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FEATURED PROPERTY



WILLENHALL

- CRAB LANE Exceptional traditional detached on premier road
- Drawing room Superb conservatory Dining room
- Breakfast kitchen and utility Energy Rating D
- 3 bedrooms and loft room/ bedroom 4 Luxury bathroom & En-suite
- Garage and large driveway Extensive rear garden £369,950

PROPERTY OF THE WEEK



WILLENHALL YALE ROAD

- Exceptional Executive Modern Link Detached Energy Rating C
- Spacious Lounge Dining Room Family Room Kitchen
- Four Bedrooms En-Suite Shower Room Bathroom
- Double Glazing Gas Central Heating Garage

借

MANAGER'S CHOICE

WILLENHALL

- Impressive modern semi detached No chain
- Spacious lounge Conservatory
 Dining kitchen Guest wc Energy Rating C
 Three bedrooms Bathroom
- Double glazing Gas central heating Driveway Garden

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£189,950



- wly built three storey detached pi ining area Fitted kitchen s Bathroom with shower room
- - £149,950



WILLENHALL

Traditional semi detact
 Lounge and dining roc
 3 bedrooms (currently
 Energy rating D ● Ga
 Delightful landscaped



- Extended End Terrace Property

 Energy Rating E
 Spacious Lounge

 Large Dining Room

 Kitchen
 These Bedrooms
 For Control 11



- - £135,000





COPPICE FARM



£145,000





£137,000







WILLENHALL



PORTOBELLO WAITE ROAD



WILLENHALL

Dining Kitchen
 Lounge ● Dining Kitchen
 Iwo Double Bedrooms ● Re-Fitted Bathroom
 Driveway ● Front & Rear Gardens
 Gas Central Heating System







SUMMER HAYES

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 No Re-Fitted Dining Kitchen
 Conservatory

 Authorom
- ting Majority Double Glazing Energy Rating 'E' ardens Garage Utility with WC Driveway

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- Off Road Parking and GarageD.Glazing & Gas C.Heating

In the Region of £349,950



- GREEN ROCK LANE

 Three Bedroom Detached
- Three Bedroom Detached
 Two Reception Rooms
 Kitchen with Large Pantry

 Verandah
 Newly Fitted Bathroom

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- Large Detached Garage

In the Region of £165,000



In the Region of £249,950

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Shower Room
Front & Rear Gardens

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WOODALL STREET

NEW BUILD •• THREE BED DETACHED

- NEW BUILD •• THREE BED DETACHED
 Kitchen•Lounge/Diner, Guest W.C
 En-Suite Shower Room,
 Family Bathroom•Front & Rear Gardens
 Garage with Off Road Parking

Asking Price of £160,000



- GREEN LANE
 Four Double Bedrooms
 Two En-Suites Conservato
 Guest W.C. Loft Room Ga



- GRAZEWOOD CLOSE

 THREE BEDROOM DETACHED
- I HHEE BEDROOM DE IACHED
 D.Glazing● Gas Heating●Garage
 Garage with Off Road Parking
 Lounge●Kitchen/Diner●Family Bathroom
 Front & Rear Gardens

In the Region of £154,950



EXTENDED 3 BED DETACHED

• EXTENDED 3 BED DETACHED

• Extended Kitchen•D.Glazing•C

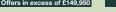
Heating ■ Two Reception Rooms●Kitchen

Utility
 Bathroom
 Separate W.C
 Garage

£225,000

- Four Bedroom Detached
 Large Lounge●Breakfast Kitchen
 Dining Room●Rear Lobby/Utility
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In the Region of £194,000

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Fully Re-Furbed®Two Reception Ro
Re-Fitted Kitchen®Conservatory

Utility Room/WC●Family Bathroom

Rear Garden●Garages & Workshop

NEW FOREST ROAD

• Three Bedroom Detach

- Lounge
 Open Plan Kitchen/Diner
 Conservatory
 Family Bathroom
- En-Suite Shower Room
 Off Road Parking
 Garage with Utility

Offers in excess of £147,500



- BROADWAY

 THREE BED SEMI-DETACHED

 D.Glazing Gas Heating Garag

 Two Reception
- RoomseKitcheneBathroom
- Front & Rear Gardens●Parking

Offers in the Region of £190,000



BRAMCOTE WAY

Modern Three bed semi detached

- gas heating●d. glazing●Guest Cloakroom

- Cloakroom
 Lounge●Kitchen Diner●Bathroom
 Garden●Garage●Off Road Parking

£140,000



- COPPICE FARM WAY Extended 3 Bed Semi-Detached
- Two Reception Rooms
 Fitted Kitchen
- Family BathroomeGardens
 ParkingeD. Glazing & Gas Heating

In the Region of £140,000



- ARROW ROAD
- EXTENDED THREE BED SEMI
- Kitchen/Diner•Shower Room
 Extended Lounge•Off Road Parking
 Bathroom•Front & Rear Gardens

£135,000



- LANE AVENUE
- EXTENDED 3 BED SEMI-DETACHED

Re-Furbished

Note: Re-Fu





- CARTBRIDGE LANE TWO BEDROOM MID-TERRACE
- D.Glazing

 Gas Heating
- Parking Lounge/Diner
 Kitchen Cloakroom W.C
 Bathroom with Shower
 - - In the Region of £127,995



WOODALL STREET

- ••• NEW BUILD ••• TWO BEDROOM SEMI-DETACHED
- Kitchen

 Lounge/Diner
 Guest W.C

 Family Bathroon
 Front & Rear Gardens

Asking Price of £127,500



Willenhall

- LICHFIELD ROAD Two Bedr
- Fitted Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
 Lounge/Dining Room
 Rear Garden

SQUIRES GROVE

In the Region of £114,995

In the Region of £99.995









Walsall DRYDEN ROAD

- EXTENDED THREE BEDROOM SEMI-DETACHED

- Gas Central Heating
- Extended Kitchen/Diner

- Ground Floor Bathroom Front & Rear Gardens

- SMITHS FLOUR MILL
- Two Bedroom First Floor Apartment
 Open Living Area
- Parking
 Fully Equipped Kitchen
 Family Bathroom with Shower

In the Region of £110.000



- - Walsall
 BLOXWICH ROAD

 Three Bedroom Traditional Semi
 Double Glazing
 Gas Central Heating
 Two Reception Rooms
 Kitchen & Veranda

Offers in excess of £110.000



Bloxwixch

- VALLEY ROAD
- THREE BEDROOM MID-TERRACE
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating (Where Specified)
- Lounge
 Kitchen/Diner Down Stairs Toilet . Family Bathroom with Separate Shower

Front & Rear Gardens £95,000



- TORRIDON ROAD
- Two Bedroom Bunglaow
 Lounge with Patio Doors to Rear Garden
 Kitchene Wet Room with Shower
 Enclosed Rear GardenOff Road Parking
 Double GlazingeGas Central Heating



- Bloxwich
 HUNTER CRESCENT
 EXTENDED THREE BEDROOM SEMIDETACHED

omeGardenseGarageeParking



D.Glazing●Gas Heating
 Lounge●Diner●Kitchen

Offers in excess of £95,000

200

Walsaii
CARTBRIDGE WALK

TWO BEDROOM END-TERRACE

Double Glazing®Gas Central Heating

Lounge®Dining Room®GardensParking

Fitted Kitchen®Family Bathroom



CLARKES LANE
TWO BEDROOM FIRST FLOOR FLAT
double glazing gas heating
Lounge Fitted Kitchen Utility Room



WOLVERHAMPTON ROAD

Kitchen
 Ground Floor Bathro

Three Bedroom Mid-Terrace
 Two Reception Rooms
 Lean To





Bloxwich
TRENT PLACE
TWO BEDROOM SEMI-DETACHED
D.GlazingeLounge©Off Road Parkin
Gas Heating (both where specified)
Kitchen®Shower Room®Bathroom

£105,000



BLAKENALL LANE

Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
Potential to ExtendeLoungeeNO CHAIN Kitchen
 Downstairs W.C.
 Parking
 Shower Room
 Front & Rear Gardens



 Lounge/Diner
 Fitted Kitchen
 Family Bathroom
 En-Suite Shower In the Region of £85,000

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Motoring

Compiled by Motoring Editor Sharon Walters

Nissan Qashqai leading the way

Qashqai, the best-selling Crossover in Europe, helped lift output at the company's Sunderland plant above 500,000 units for the second year in

500,000 units for the second year in succession.

Nissan's North East Plant, the largest carassembly facility in the UK, has produced more than one million vehicles in the past two years amid continued investment and new model launches from the site.

Kevin Fitzpatrick, Nissan's vice-president for Manufacturing in the UK, said: "Building over a million cars in two years is a further sign of Nissan's growing brand presence in one of the most competitive markets in Europe.

"Exceeding output of 500,000 units for a second vear is an even greater achievement given we com-

"Exceeding output of 500,000 units for a second year is an even greater achievement given we combined this high volume whilst also starting production of the all-electric Nissan LEAF at the plant, along with the launch of the new Note, and replacing the most popular car we have ever made with the new generation Qashqai."

In 2013, more than 286,000 of the cars built in Sunderland last year were Nissan Qashqais, now ints eighth year of production. Total Qashqai production in the UK stands at 1,752,232 since 2006.

Production of the new generation Qashqai, which has been named Car of the Year by What Car?, will be marked with a launch event at Sunderland on January 22. "Our workforce continues to set the benchmark for productivity and quality, and I would like to thank and congratulate them

an on reaching this latest milestone, said Fitzpatrick.

The annual production figures of 501,756 follow
a year in which Prime Minster David Cameron
visited the plant to mark the launch of the Nissan
LEAF, and work began on a plant extension to
enable production of the Infiniti Q30 from 2015.

Monthly production broke the 50,000 barrier in
October for the first time in Nissan's 27-year
history of manufacturing in the UK, with eight different model variants built across the calendar
year. The year ended with the unveiling of the new
generation Qashqai, the embodiment of Nissan's
innovation and excitement and the key driver in
the company's goal of becoming the top-selling
Asian brand in Europe.

Improvement

Improvement

The new Qashqai, which goes on sale this month, will retain 50 per cent of its value after three years/30,000 miles – a 10 per cent improvement on its predecessor – according to latest data from residual value (RV) setters CAP.

The new £20,840 Qashqai 1.5 dCi Acenta now has an RV of 50 per cent or £10,400 after three years, meaning it is set to retain £2,375 more over its first three years of life compared to its outgoing equivalent.

Not only does this position Qashqai as the C segment diesel Crossover king but also places it ahead of some key hatch rivals such as the Volkswagen Golf. The 1.5 dCi also returns combined fuel consumption of 74.3mpg while emitting just fuel consumption of 74.3mpg while emitting just 99g/km CO2, further reinforcing the business case for fleet drivers. Meanwhile, the new Qashqai 1.2



DIG-T Acenta petrol – priced from just £19,145 – also enjoys a 10 per cent RV increase on the outgoing model, giving a real world RV after three years of £9,575, a £2,800 increase on the outgoing 1.6

of £9,575, a £2,800 increase on the outgoing 1.6
Qashqai Acenta.
Helping to contribute to these strong value forecasts is an abundance of leading technology and
safety items. Even entry-level Visia models get
Bluetooth, cruise control and hill start assist, while top-of-the-range Tekna models boast Safety Shield with Traffic Signal Recognition and High Beam





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Official Government Test Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO2 emissions (g/km). Vauxhall range (excl. Ampera): Urban: 14.4 (19.6) - 76.3 (3.7), Extra-urban: 27.4 (10.3) - 91.1 (3.1), Combined: 18.0 (15.7) - 85.6 (3.3). CO₂ emissions: 373 - 88g/km.#

Motoring

New Leon is boosting the figures **for SEAT**

By Graham Breeze

THE industry has been predicting big things for SEAT and the new Leon has helped the company smash sales figures in the past year. With 45,312 cars registered, SEAT sold 6,514 more cars in 2013 than it did in 2012 – its previous best ever year.

year.
That's a 16.8 per cent improvement and is SEAT's fifth consecutive annual sales rise, giving the company a 2 per cent UK market share.
The success is underpinned by the third generation Leon achieving the model's best sales ever, with 14,302 in 2013 and the news comes in the same week that Leon was named "2013 best family car" by CarBuyer magazine

The SC is the first ever three-door Leon, following on

The SC is the first ever three-door Leon, following on from last year's relaunch of the revamped five-door, and will be joined early this year by an estate.

It's fashionable these days to brand three door cars as coupes and it's fair to say that the Spaniards have achieved that with the stylish SC FR 1.4TSi on test.

In fact this Leon is completely new with a lower roof and stylish tailgate enhancing the profile and despite being 35mm shorter than it's five-door sister there's ample room inside for four.

Balance

Balance

It's difficult to fault the car with a good balance of performance and economy linked to sportiness and comfort, emphasising just why the younger driver is being attracted to the SEAT brand.

Generating 140ps it'll get you from a standstill to 62mph in 8.2 seconds and has a top speed of 131mph while able to keep CO2 emissions down to an impressive 119g/km level. On top of that the test model averaged

while able to keep CO2 emissions down to an impressive 119g/km level. On top of that the test model averaged 54.3mpg.

Being built on the same platform as the Golf means you get good handling and plenty of grip with the FR benefitting from SEAT's Drive Profile Selector – giving a choice of throttle and steering response depending whether you select eco, normal or sport options.

All this is controlled through a neat touch screen system which is the eentrepiece of the fascia which is the most disappointing aspect of this newcomer. SEAT have gone for the minimalistic approach and it looks boring. The Leon has generous specification from base level. Every Leon SC comes with air conditioning, sports-shaped front seats, steering wheel mounted audio controls, seven airbags, remote central locking, anti-lock brakes and electronic stability control.

SE trim adds, among other things, 16inch alloy wheels, front fog lights with cornering function, cruise control, leather steering wheel and gear knob, XDS electronic differential lock, and hill hold control.

Top-of-the range Leon models come wearing SEAT's iconic FR badge, and only the more powerful engines in the line-up qualify. All FR cars get 17-inch alloy wheels, LED rear lights, dual-zone climate control, dark tinted rear windows, and FR-specific front- and rear bumpers. The Leon also comes with full-LED headlights, which are optional on SE and FR cars providing a powerful light beam that's closer to natural daylight than any other sort of headlamp – a really attractive addition.

SEAT has one of the youngest customer profiles in the business, with an average age of just 38, and the Leon SC so it's little wonder this model is resonating with the company's typical buyers.

company's typical buyers.



TESTED

SEAT Leon SC FR Model: 1.4TSi 140PS Top speed: 131mph 0-62mph: 8.2 seconds CO2 emissions: 119/km Combined fuel: 54.3mpg Price: From £16,670







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Fuel consumption figures in mpg (I/100km) for the new Kia 'VR7' range are: Urban 32.1 (8.8) – 52.3 (5.4), Extra Urban 53.3 (5.3) – 78.5 (3.6), Combined 42.8 (6.6) – 67.3 (4.2). CO_ emissions are 148 – 99 g/km. MPG figures are official EU test figures for comparative purposes and may not reflect real driving results. 7 year /100,000 mile manufacturer's warranty. For terms and exclusions visit kia.co.uk or see your local dealer. Price, Reevoo score and number of reviews correct at time of going to press and specification is subject to change without notice. Quote taken from Kia customer reviews. Directly comparable quotes occur across the Kia range. "Models shown: Picanto and "Art PAT" 10.686bhps 5-speed manual @ £1.995 including customer saving of £7.90 and excluding optional metallic paint at £455; Rio 5-dr 'VR7' 14.98bhp 5-speed manual @ £1.995 including customer saving of £7.90 and excluding optional metallic paint at £455; Rio 5-dr 'VR7' 14.98bhp 5-speed manual @ £1.995 including customer saving of £1.000 and excluding optional metallic paint at £457.60 file price includes VAT, number plates, delivery, 12 months' Government Vehicle Excise Duty (VED) and Vehicle First Registration Fee. Retail customer saving of £1.000 and excluding optional metallic paint at £475.01 file price includes VAT, number plates, delivery, 12 months' Government Vehicle Excise Duty (VED) and Vehicle First Registration Fee. Retail customers only, 12 months' Government Vehicle Excise Duty (VED) and Vehicle First Registration Fee. Retail customers and you provided the saving of £1.000 and excluding optional metallic paint at £475.01 first price includes VAT, number plates, delivery, 12 months' Government Vehicle Excise Duty (VED) and Vehicle First Registration by model delivery. As a vehicle price of the first price vehicles registered before 31 March 2014. Participating dealers only. 4.9% APR representative available on Kia Conditions and applicable VCR7 models. 100 kiao customers of the control of the first subject of the first subject

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Top names visit Second City's motorsport show

world of racing together with thousands of visitors flocked to Birmingham's NEC at the weekend for the sell-out Autosport International Show, Europe's

largest motorsport event.

The season-opening event welcomed four and two-wheel world champion and motorsport legend John Surtees (pictured) with a special display of his competition special display of his competition machines from over the years; World Rally Champion Petter Solberg; Le Mans winner Alan McNish; British Touring Car champions Matt Neal and Jason Plato and F1 rookie Max Chilton, who was announced as Marussia's second driver for the 2014 season.

Grid

Grid

One of the most popular attractions was the large display of current cars from all the teams competing in the 2013 F1 season laid out as an F1 grid.

Autosport International Show director, Ian France, said: "It has been simply fantastic to have so many champions and distinguished drivers from the world of motorsport at the show, and the huge

drivers from the world of motor-sport at the show, and the huge number of visitors who flocked to the show have been obviously delighted with what has been on display."

Telford company Cobra Seats, of Halesfield, reported a very success-ful show and managing director Mark Dunsford said: "This was our largest ever stand and we have had over 30 different competition seats over 30 different competition seats on display including the very latest

FIA seat for Honda touring car drivers Matt Neal and Gordon Sheddon.

"We have had a tremendous number of visitors to the stand and have also taken several orders for our prototype 'classic style' seats which have a traditional and authen-tic period appearance, but are made of the very latest materials and com-

HONDA

ponents for added safety." Other visitors to the show were Loton Park Hill Climb driving school instructors Dave Parr and Tim Cross, who viewed the latest lightweight Caterham Seven 160 kit-car for home assembly, which features a tiny turbocharged 660cc three-cylinder Suzuki engine giving 80bhp and a top speed of 100mph.

The performance car section of the show featured some of the latest supercars including the Ferrari F12 Berlinetta, Jaguar XKRS GT, McLaren 12C GT Sprint, Porsche GT3, Aston Martin V8 Vantage S, Lamborghini Aventador and the Tesla Model S from America, which produces up to 416bhp from its electric motor.



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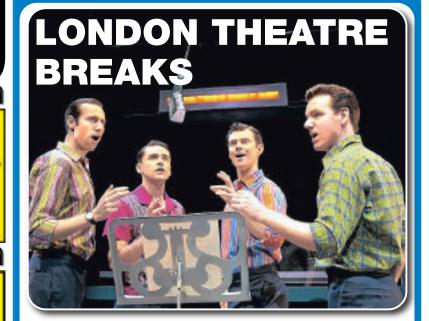


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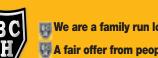
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Representations should be made within 21 days of the date of this notice. Please note: Your letter and personal details will form part of the planning file which is a public document and will be available for inspection at the Council Offices. The information may be released as part of a request under the Freedom of Information Act.

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Mrs Susan Speed
FOR: Installation of 5 no. replacement windows and one replacement door

AT: WHITEHALL INFANT SCHOOL, WEST BROMWICH ROAD, WALSALL, WS1 3HS 14/0051/FL

Mr Sved F H Bokhari

Mr Syed F H Bokhari
FOR: Change of use from retail (A1) to hot food takeaway/
restaurant (A3, A5), provision of extractor flue and to install two air
cooled condenser units (wall mounted).
AT: 1 MIDLAND ROAD, WALSALL, WS1 3QQ
13/1985/FL
A H Field (Holdings) Ltd
FOR: Change all varieties to LIBVC. Permand planning condition.

FOR: Change all windows to UPVC. Removal planning condition 21 of planning application 02/0237/FL/E6
AT: WESLEYAN COURT,7 LICHFIELD ROAD,WALSALL,WS4 2HT

AI: WESLEYAN COURT, / DICHFIELD ROAD, WALSALL, WS4 14/0079/FL Mr A Munir FOR: Erection of new bungalow adjacent to public footpath WAL102.

AT: REAR OF 251 BIRMINGHAM ROAD, WALSALL, WS5 3AA 14/0084/FI & 14/0073/AD

14/0084/FL & 14/0073/AD
Appliance Electronics
FOR: New frontage including removal of brick piers, larger window displays and new entrance including internal ramp and punched lathe roller shutters and installation of 2 no. Externally illumination fascial signs measuring 2.5m x 14.2m and 0.7m x 10.5m. Development affects the setting of a Public Footpath (WAL17). AT: 52A Harrision Street, Walsall, WS3 34W.

The application marked * does not accord with the provisions of the development plan for the area.

Personals

general

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

LOCKETT

ROYAL MARINE WW2

hristian name unknown, and yed in Walsall area. He was married and at Salisbury Plain in late 1940, early 1941, probably training. He was still in the Royal Marines in 1948-49.

Howas a close friend of gunner John (Jack) Nolan who served in the 1st Field Brigade R.A. John was also from Walsall area and was a Champion Boxer in the 1930's and an Army Champion.

I am seeking any information about Lockett for Family research, if you could please contact me, Antony Stone at

tonyandkate18@ hotmail com

personal



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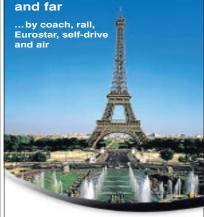
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SPORT

Poor form comes to an end for **Bloxwich**

Bloxwich 5 Redditch 3 BLOXWICH Men's First XI poor run of form came to an exciting and action packed end with a comprehensive win over a strong Redditch hockey team.

bookey team.

Bloswich started off the game with a positive attitude and pressed directly from the push back.

This paid dividends and some excellent passing movements around the pitch meant Eddie Marrocco (2), Matt Baldwin (2) and Adam Baldwin scored to give Bloxwich a comfortable and commanding 5-0 lead.

Some exceptional saves

Some exceptional saves from Jamie Bayliss meant the team held onto this lead the team held onto this lead for a large period of the first half but two goals from Red-ditch meant Bloxwich kept a three-goal cushino going into the second half. Due to a hailstorm the match was interrupted. As the match restarted, Redditch managed to score another goal but the three points were always going to

points were always going to be Bloxwich's in a hardfought and tough encounter

Drills from training and a good team morale were evident in a Bloxwich performance they hope to replicate this week against Kingswinford.

City given the Blues by Swans

Birmingham 1 Swansea City 2

Swansea City 2
DISAPPOINTED Blues
boss Lee Clark felt his side
had missed a big chance to
cause an FA Cup upset after
a 2-1 home defeat to

Swansea.

The Swans' poor recent run looked set to continue when Lee Novak's glancing header gave Birmingham a deserved lead in the fourth-

But the introduction of

But the introduction of Wilfried Bony at the interval changed the game, with the Ivorian scoring twice in three minutes to take his tally to 16 for the season.

Clark praised Bony's contribution but believes his team passed up an opportunity to pull off a repeat of their League Cup success against the Premier League outfit.

outfit.

Clark also said the decision to omit Nikola Zigic from his matchday squad had been for football reasons. Goalscorer Lee Novak added: "We're disappointed we didn't get through."

It was little surprise when Swansea fell behind in the 15th minute. Burke whipped in an inviting cross and Novak glanced an excel-

and Novak glanced an excel-lent header into the net .

Pitmen goal is a sensation

A SPECTACULAR winning goal scored by Hednesford Town footballer Elliott Durrell has become an internet sensation after a video of it went viral.

The 24-year-old midfielder scored a stunning goal in stoppage time to clinch a 2-1 win for the Pitmen at Bradford Park

Pitmen at Bradford Park

Pitmen at Bradford Park Avenue.
A YouTube video showing nighlights of the Skrill Con-ference North game has now been viewed more than 22,000 times with fans from around the world logging on to see Durrell score straight to see Durrell score straight from kick-off. Visit www.expressandstar.com/sp ort to see the goal.

Notts one of my best results - Smith



Dean Smith - best results

SADDLERS Boss Dean Smith has hailed Walsall's demolition of Notts County as one of his best ever results.

County as one of his best ever results.
Febian Brandy bagged a hat-trick as the Saddlers dismantled the Magpies 5-1 to underline their promotion credentials on Saturday.
The Saddlers beat Bristol Rovers 6-1 and Hardthand 5-2 these rowns are

1 and Hartlepool 5-2 three years ago under Smith and he insisted their

under Smith and he insisted their Meadow Lane stroll ranks as highly.

"It's up there because of the style of play and the execution of it. It's not just about the chances we created but off the ball we were outstanding," he oxid

"There are few times in your man-

agement career you can go away from home, win 5-1 and be as comfortable as we were. The thing which was more pleasing for me was at 5-0 they were still chasing and wanting to score more. That shows a ruthlessness and a hunger that they want to keep deliver-

"Everyone knew what we could do but everyone has been talking about us being low scorers and that's shot that out of the window. We need to follow it up against Swindon."

The win lifted Walsall to sixth in Legyny One aboad of the Robins', issist

League One ahead of the Robins' visit

his irrst-hall treble.
He said: "Febian can be whatever he wants to be and I've always said he has matured. I think in all three games defensively he has matured a hell of a lot. He was clinical with all his

"He likes it here, he plays with a smile on his face, he knows all the players and gets on well with all of them."

them."
And despite their rout Smith confirmed he is still chasing a striker and is hopeful of a new recruit.
He added: "There's a possibility. We're negotiating at the moment."



Febian Brandy

Dicko dimension is the decider in Wolves win

Wolves 3 Bristol City1

WOLVES continue to pedal away furiously just to stand still in a League One promotion race proving elusive and challenging.

Kenny Jackett's team always appeared to have the measure of Bristol City but again stretched the nerves of supporters before finally putting the game to rest with a conclusive third goal 14 minutes from the end. However, the task of bringing to heel their two direct

Football

However, the task of bring opponents for automatic promotion, Brentford and Leyton Orient, is proving even more arduous.

Wolves maintained their upwards curve but the two runaway trains ahead of them remain out of reach and still on course to reach their mutual destination ahead of Jackett soutfit.

Jackett introduced a new

ahead of Jackett's outfit.
Jackett introduced a new
cast member on Saturday
and Nouha Dicko proved a
very welcome addition.
Wolves have not had such
sharpness and pace in the
central striking areas since
Dean Sturridge and then
Henri Camara, a curious
omission but one Jackett has
been anxious to resolve.
His and Wolves' first goal,
after 10 minutes, certainly
avowed for that sharpness as
he got in front of his marker
and worked sufficient, space

he got in front of his marker and worked sufficient space to surprise Elliott Parish with the sting put into a left-foot finish despite a restricted back-lift.

While it didn't get any better than that for Dicko, it didn't get any worse either. He played a major part in regaining the lead shortly before half-time with another fierce cross which ricocheted in off defender Derrick Williams, could have squeezed a third late on and should surely have had a penalty. All in all, he was the persistent handful inside Derrick Williams, could have squeezed a third late on and should surely have had penalty. All in all, he was the persistent handful inside the area Jacket has been looking for.

Bakary Sako swept in the killer third goal from an

edge-of-the-area, left-foot drive which eased the ten-sions of another perform-ance high on the promise of goals but lacking delivery. Still it is difficult to know what awaits this maddening footballeast seatch

what awaits this maddening footballer, part-match winner, part-weakness to the team's overall output.

Although Henry and Jacobs are free to exploit space and opportunity at the top of the pitch, they justify this indulgence with a high work-rate to protect their full-backs.

There was a rare breach in this shape in the 23rd minute when Henry was caught trailing to concede the penalty deposited by Sam Baldock after the Wolves man impeded Greg Cunningham.

But it is a trade-off Wolves But it is a trade-off Wolves

But it is a trade-off Wolves will happily accept and, despite his welcome contribution, Sako must remain on the outside looking in.

Unless, of course, his cameo against City indicated a sufficient revival in form to put him in contention for arguably the most important role in the line-up which Jackett now clearly prefers.

Molineux pays last respects to Bert 'The Cat'



Wolves players pay their respects to the late goalkeeper Bert Williams with displays of gold flowers

TEARS flowed and chants echoed around the ground as an emotional Molineux paid tribute to the great Bert Williams.

Bert Williams.
Former players and fans turned out to honour the footballing legend who died eight days ago at the age of 93.
A minute's applause was held before Saturday's game against Bristol City, which Wolves won 3-1, in honour of Bert while flowers were laid in his memory.
His family also gathered at Molineux and paid tribute to both the club and the fans, saying the event

club and the fans, saying the event

had been 'better than anything they had expected'

had expected'.

The crowd joined in the spirit of the moment by breaking out into chants in his honour before and during the game, with the South Bank singing one Bert Williams' and 'England's number one' in reference to the star, who won 24 caps for his country, played 420 times for the club from 1945-57 and won the League title in 1954 and the FA Cup in 1949.

Tributes from a book of condolence, including some from former

lence, including some from former players such as Matt Murray and Mel

Eves, were read out while other players, past and present, such as Malcolm Finlayson, Ron Flowers, Phil Parkes and Carl Ikeme joined the

Phil Parkes and Carl Ikeme joined the Williams family pitchside.

Before the game, gold flowers spelling out Bert and The Cat were carried by Wolves keeper Aaron McCarey and Bristol City's Elliott Parish from the halfway line and placed behind the respective goals. Fans will be able to pay their respects to Bert at a memorial service on February 5 at noon at Wolverhampton's St Peter's Collegiate Church.

Champion Ben pulls out a convincing victory



Benjamin Whittaker has eased his way through

NATIONAL champion Ben-jamin Whittaker eased into the first national stages of the England Youth Championships with another convinc-ing win in the West Midlands

Final, writes Craig Birch.
Pleck Boxing Club's James
Beech joined him in the next
phase after the area decider at the Irish Centre in Digbeth

esterday afternoon. In Class A. for boxers born in 1995, Beech boxed well at 56kg to see off Reece Smith, from the Tom Lowe club in Stoke-

on-Trent.

Beech kept it nice and compact and worked well on

the inside, mainly connecting with the over-hand right to record a unanimous points

victory.
At 64kg, Wednesbury's Kyle

At 64kg, Wednesbury's Kyle Shirley was seen off by Connor Benson, from his grandfather Pat's club in Birmingham. Shirley tried to box tight at close range but Benson worked well a short, middle and long range to record a deserved unanimous win.

At 69kg, Whittaker came up against an aggressive foe in Ryan Tooher, from Exhall in Coventry, but it was all business from the National Ambi-tion title holder.

sized body puncher who bangs away, but Whittaker used his height and jab to negate his rival's skills, while commanding the centre of the ring to roll

In Class B, for fighters born in 1996, Lee Gunter set his stall out to box through Dylan

stall out to box through Dylan Brassington and managed to go the distance with the Shropshire puncher at 60kg.
Gunter, from Right Stuff in Stafford, initially kept him at bay but punch power told as Brassington wore him down and, while not blasting him out, did enough damage to

secure a majority decision.

Walsall Wood's Shaun
Cooper was disqualified 30
seconds from the end of a bout he was winning against Nathan Cooke, from Triumph

Nathan Cooke, from Triumph in Coventry, at 64kg.
Cooper gave away several inches to his opponent and was eventually thrown out for ducking down low, after the third name of the cooper from t third warning.
Cooke had been repri-

manded once for pushing.
The referee had also been struck accidentally by Cooper, was a wayward blow landed on the man in the middle, as both fighters were ordered to break.

Aldridge shutout cuts down **Brummies**

Birmingham Barbarians 0
Aldridge 81
MANAGING at last to field a
representative side for the
first time in many weeks,
Aldridge took no time in
overwhelming Birmingham
Barbarians in this rearranged league fixture.
A couple of tries in the
first five minutes put the visitors firmly in the driving
seat and it became one-way
traffic from then.
Play was interrupted in
the first half by a thunderstorm but there was no
respite for the home side
when play resumed.
Aldridge gave a dynamic

when play resumed.
Aldridge gave a dynamic display and although the deteriorating conditions meant not all the passes went to hand there was plenty of ambition and determined ball carrying throughout.

Injuries in the second-half compounded Ba Bas problems as they stuck to their task of trying to stem the blitz but by the end Aldridge had amassed 13 tries with eight conversions.

had amassed 13 tries with eight conversions.
Centre Nick Yates got a hat-trick. No.8 Chris Balm-forth and winger Will Durant got a brace apiece and other scorers were Adam Reed, Jacob Holding, John Bromwich, Dan McKenna, Steve Winfield, and Alex Holding. The eight conversions were by Alex Yates.

Villa Colts get share of the points

Lichfield & Walsall District Football Club

Football Club
League One
Pelsall Villa Colts 1 Burntwood Star 1
League Two
Duke of Wellington 1
Green Rock Tavern 4; Paradise FC 0 Ros Park 3
League Tree

League Three Turnpike 3 Hussey Arms

League Four League Four
Dosthill Rangers 3
Bowman FC 0
Lichfield Challenge Cup
Round Two
Trident 1 Erdington Star
2; Wych Elm FC 1 Pelsall
Villa FC 7
Danny Donovan Cup
Round One

Round One
Stonnall FC 1 AC Lions 2
Ricky Harrison Trophy
Cellar Door 4 Eximius
Warriors 1

League Trophy Group A
Boatmans Rest 2 Longdon
Chet 2

Challenge to high earners

KENNY JACKETT has thrown down the gauntlet to Wolves' highly-paid star 'outcasts' and challenged them to fight for their

'outcasts' and challenged them to fight for their places.

Top earner Kevin Doyle leads an unhappy group on the fringes after falling alarmingly from grace and scoring just three times this season, along with Bakary Sako, Jamie O'Hara, Bjorn Sigurdarson and Wayne Hennessey.

Those five players alone are draining around £120,000-a-week out of the club between them.

"For people out of the team, whether that's Doyle, Sako, Hennessey, Sigurdarson – if they're hurting and disappointed, it's up to them to fight their way back," said head coach Jackett.

"It's part of football life, which dictates you lose your place sometimes.

"It happens during a

place sometimes. "It happens during a

Big Ben up
Boxer is through
to nationals
Page 43



Right result win among best



Sports Desk 01902 319531

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challenge for high paid stars

KENNY JACKETT has thrown down the gauntlet to Wolves' highly-paid star 'outcasts' and challenged them to fight for their

Top earner Kevin Doyle leads an unhappy group on the fringes after falling alarmingly from grace and scoring just three times this season, along with Bakary Sako, Jamie O'Hara, Bjorn Sigurdarson and Wayne Hennessey.

Those five players alone are draining around £120,000-a-week out of the club between them.

Sako made a scoring return off the bench in Saturday's, 3-1 win against

return off the bench in Sat-urday's 3-1 win against Bristol City but the best the rest can hope for is a place among the substitutes. "For people out of the team, whether that's Doyle, Sako, Hennessey, Sigurdar-son – if they're hurting and disappointed, it's up to them to fight their way back," said head coach Jackett. "It's part of football life,

head coach Jackett.
"It's part of football life,
which dictates you lose your
place sometimes.
"It happens during a
career, and it's then down to

career, and it's then down to how you use the disappoint-ment or anger as a fuel to make sure you get back in the side playing well." Jackett hasn't closed the door on the out-of-favour group. "They've all done it before - that's how they got into the team in the first place."

Game gets postponed

THE wet weather in Worcestershire and right across the West Mids meant that Walsall's Mid-lands One West game at Malvern last weekend, had

The fixture will now be played this Saturday – but of course again weather permitting.

permitting.

This unexpected 'week off', gave an opportunity for some of the Walsall players to recover from injury.

It is hoped that Matt

It is hoped that Matt Wood, Max Hughes, Daniel Simpson, Luke Pittaway and Roger Weston will all be back to full fitness after recent injuries.

Weston, in particular will be keen to maintain his position as the league's leading points scorer.

He will also be keen to contribute to Walsall's continued battle for the playoff position in their league.

Jackett's Let's go all out for promotion push, says Febian

HAT-TRICK hero Febian Brandy insists Walsall can target automatic promotion after their five star romp at Notts County.

The striker hit the first senior treble of his career as the Saddlers demolished the Magpies 5-1 on Saturday.

They moved back into the League One play-off spots and were 12 points behind the top two before Tuesday's visit of Swindon.

And Brandy believes the Saddlers should aim to chase down Brentford and Leyton Orient at the top.

"Why not? Anything is possible," he said, with Walsall now sixth.

"Last season we didn't win a game for 17 games and just missed out on the play offs but there are 20 games left now and I think if we can go on a run we can do it.

"Look at Brentford, they have won 15 out of 18 so it's possible. Everyone's going to think about Walsall now. From last season we've set the platform of what's capable, what we can do, and teams are starting to notice us now."

Brandy struck a first-half treble as Walsall scored five goals or more away from home for the first time since 1997. Andy Butler and Craig Westcarr netted early in the second half and the Saddlers also squandered several fine chances to add to their lead.

And Brandy admitted his first senior hat-trick was worth the wait as he netted his first goals since returning on loan from Sheffield United this month.

"It's been too long but it's well worth

"I don't know how I feel yet, it's still sinking in. It felt good but I'm just glad to get the three points. It doesn't take any pressure off me after coming back though. If the team is doing well and we get three points and I don't score it's OK but on an individual basis anyone would like to get grals. like to get goals.

"The fans were a little edgy with me leaving but that's part of football and I expected that from them

"Since I've come back the fans have supported me well and I'm glad I got a hat-trick to repay them."

Anelka is in squad, says Mel

PEPE MEL insists Nicolas Anelka will stay in his Albion side as Stephane

Albion side as Stephane Sessegnon underwent surgery that will rule him out for a month.

Mel rubbished talk of an Anelka exit after the veteran striker insisted he plans to stay at The Hawthorns despite a looming FA hearing over his controversial quenelle celebration.

But Sessegnon will be missing for a further month following an operation today on a groin injury.

Reports in Italy linked Lazio with a move for

Reports in Italy linked Lazio with a move for Anelka and the 34-year-old claimed yesterday that the Rome giants were among several clubs who wanted to sign him.

sign him.

But he claimed he has no plans to leave and Mel said: "He showed against Everton that there are no problems with him. The most important thing for me is his performance on the pitch. "Sessegnon is the only player not available – everyone else is available and Anelka played well against Everton."

Anelka, who has denied an

Anelka played well against Everton."

Anelka, who has denied an FA charge that his controversial celebration at West Ham in December was anti-Semitic and faces a hearing next month, tweeted: "Thanks to Lazio and all the other clubs who wanted to sign me these last few days. "See you this summer if I decide to continue. "But the question is why should I leave my club and England? I'm happy here and I did nothing wrong.." "So now it's time to stay

and I did nothing wrong...
"So now it's time to stay
focused on my football with
my club and I will try my
best on the pitch like I
always do!"
Meanwhile, Sessegnon
faces another four weeks on
the sidelines after undergoing surgery.

The Chronicle, a Midland News Association Ltd publication, printed by the company at Ketley, Telford. Thursday, January 30, 2014.

the wait, it's good to get a hat-trick at any level," he said. NOTTS PUNCHDRUN

H BRANDY SHOTS

Notts County 1 Walsall 5

"THE lightning stopped and the fire-works started." It was a light-hearted quip from Dean Smith, but so fitting.

A storm threatened the game at Meadow Lane before it had even started but in the end it was Notts County who were blown away. There was no mean-ingless bluster, just a whirlwind of a 5-1 romp – the first time Walsall have

first time Walsall have scored five goals away from home in 17 years.
The huff and puff was backed up by Febian Brandy's hat-trick and the result will send shockwaves through League One.
Walsall are not under the radar any more.
They were so rampant, and County such willing victims, Walsall could have had double figures. It felt like another watershed moment in their progression.

Contenders

In three years Smith has taken the Saddlers from rock bottom to serious play-off contenders on a shoestring

string.

Six games unbeaten and momentum gathering, it is precisely the kind of result on which foundations are laid.

The biggest problem the club will have is keeping hold of the manager if the trajectory continues. Make the play-offs and it will rubber-stamp Smith's capaer-stamp Smith's capa-

Walsall are aiming higher. There is a belief within the There is a belief within the camp they can achieve something special and possibly even bridge that 12-point gap to the automatic promotion places.

Smith has assembled the strongest squad the club has

Football

had in years and, while Brandy will steal the head-lines, this victory was a team effort.

The tireless Craig Westcarr was exceptional with three assists and a goal, Richard O'Donnell saved at Richard O'Donnell saved at crucial times and Mal Benning, in for the injured Andy Taylor, excelled in his first start since August. Notts County were not just beaten, they were anni-hilated to the extent the scoreline flattered them.

Andy Butler could have had a hat-trick.

had a hat-trick.

It took 25 minutes to break the deadlock when Westcarr's pass dissected the hosts' defence and Brandy rounded Bartosz Bialkowski to score.

Bialkowski to score.

A rapier-like break saw
Westcarr clear to Lalkovic
and his pass was brilliantly
volleyed in by Brandy.

Just over 10 minutes later
he had his first senior hattrick, nodding in Westcarr's
cross after Lalkovic's
deflected shot fell kindly.

It was come over but the

It was game over but the Saddlers weren't finished – Saddlers weren't finished – Butler nodded in three minutes after the break and Westcarr got his deserved goal when he raced onto O'Donnell's long clearance



Saddlers striker Febian Brandy strokes home the first goal of his hat-trick



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